OSAMU TEZUKA

BIG X

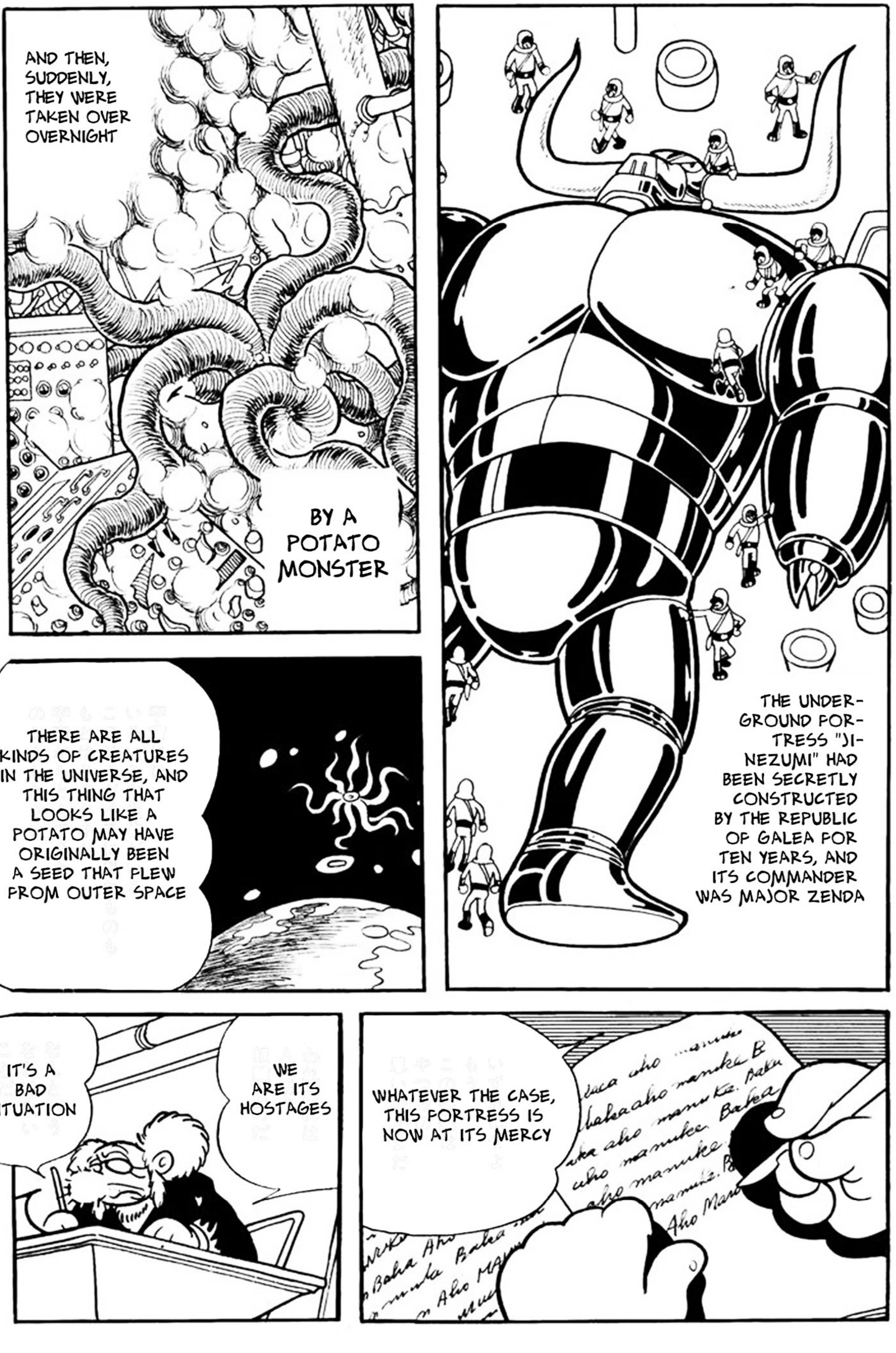


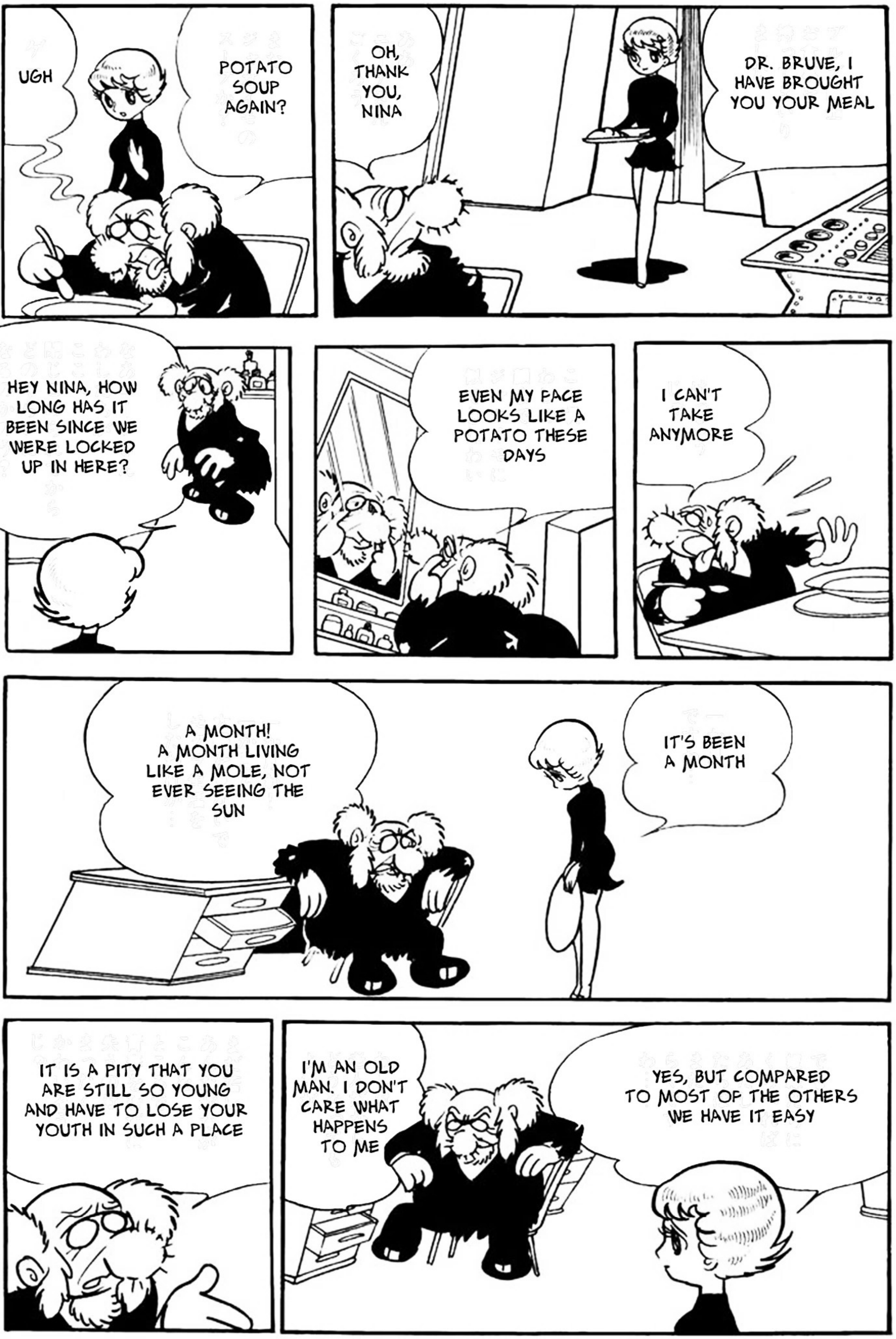
VOL. 4

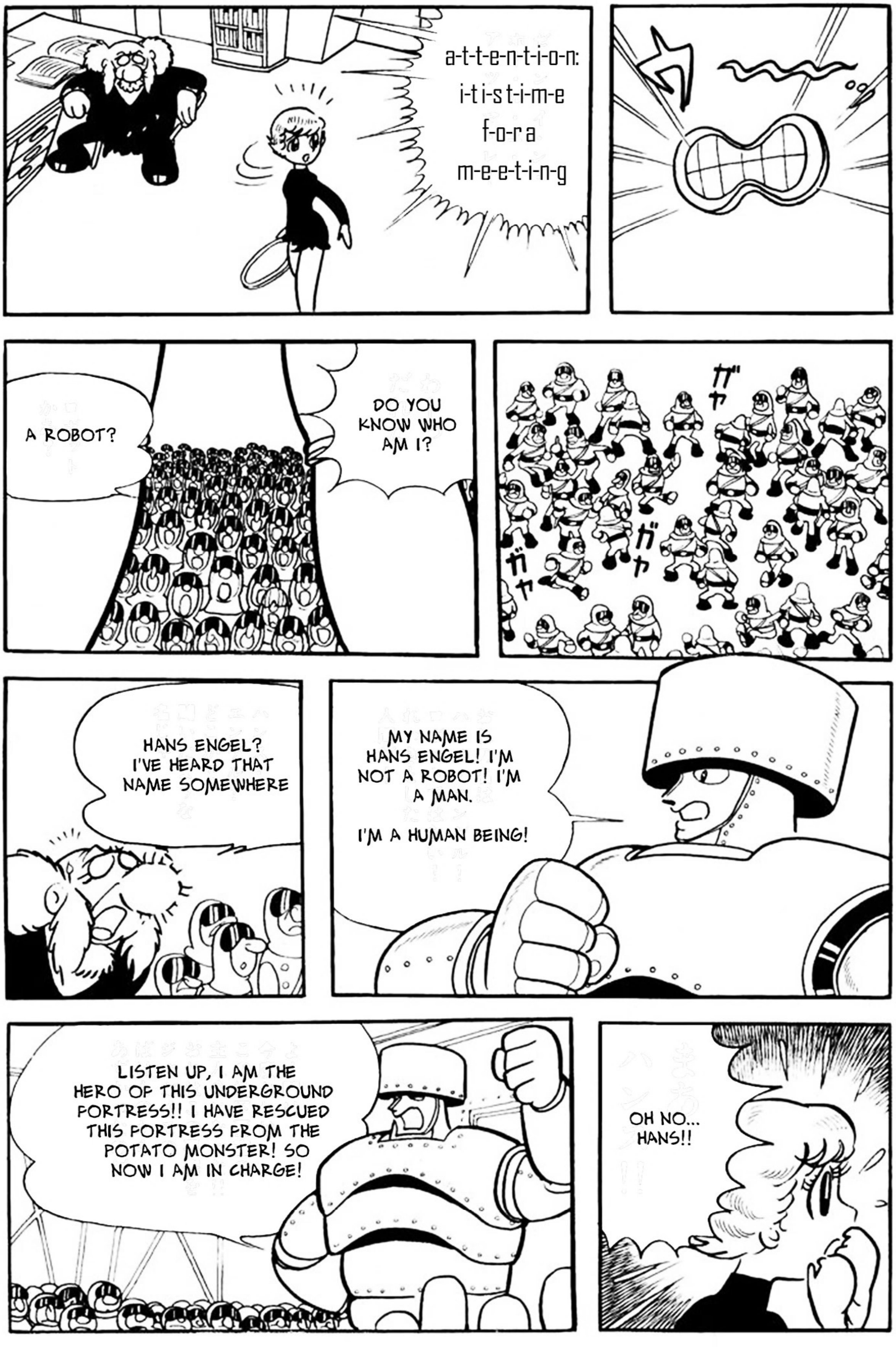
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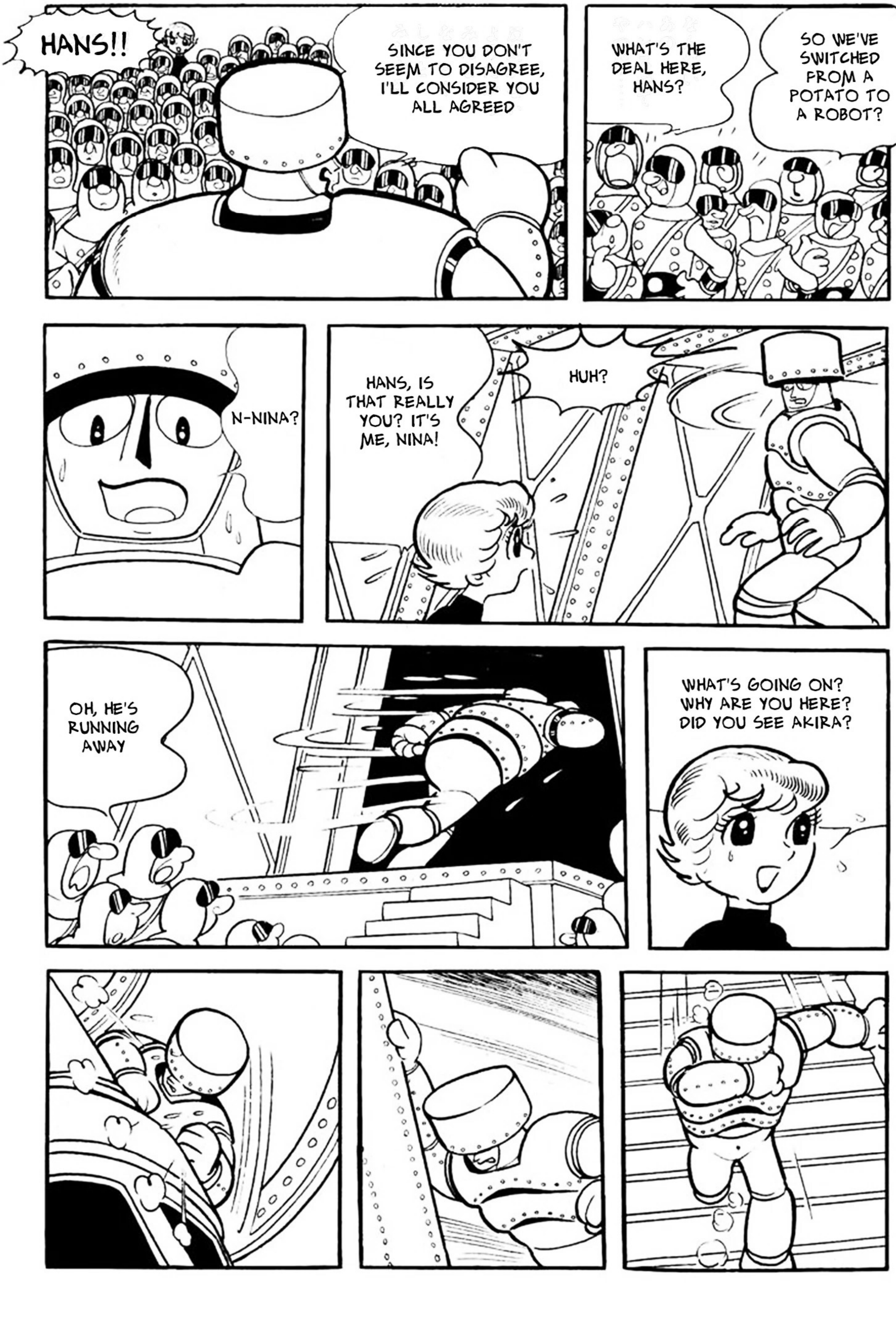
CHAPTER 17

CRISIS IN THE REPUBLIC OF GALEA


The under-ground fortress "Ji-nezumi" had been secretly constructed by the Republic of Galea for ten years, and its commander was Major Zenda
And then, suddenly, they were taken over overnight
By a potato monster
There are all kinds of creatures in the universe, and this thing that looks like a potato may have originally been a seed that flew from outer space
Whatever the case, this fortress is now at its mercy
We are its hostages
It's a bad situation

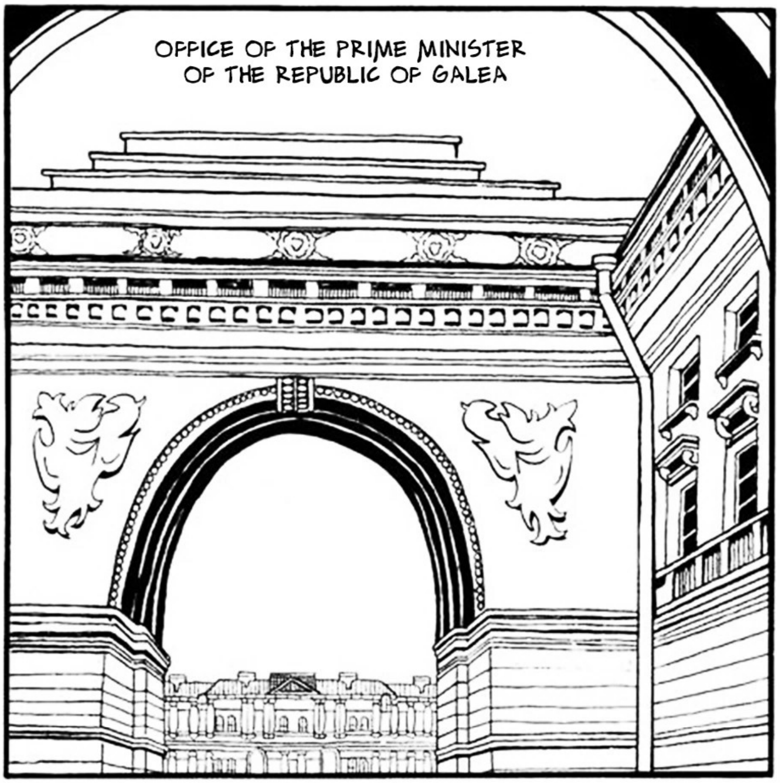

DR. BRUVE, I HAVE BROUGHT YOU YOUR MEAL
OH, THANK YOU, NINA
POTATO SOUP AGAIN?
UGH
I CAN'T TAKE ANYMORE
EVEN MY FACE LOOKS LIKE A POTATO THESE DAYS
HEY NINA, HOW LONG HAS IT BEEN SINCE WE WERE LOCKED UP IN HERE?
IT'S BEEN A MONTH
A MONTH! A MONTH LIVING LIKE A MOLE, NOT EVER SEEING THE SUN
YES, BUT COMPARED TO MOST OF THE OTHERS WE HAVE IT EASY
I'M AN OLD MAN. I DON'T CARE WHAT HAPPENS TO ME
IT IS A PITY THAT YOU ARE STILL SO YOUNG AND HAVE TO LOSE YOUR YOUTH IN SUCH A PLACE

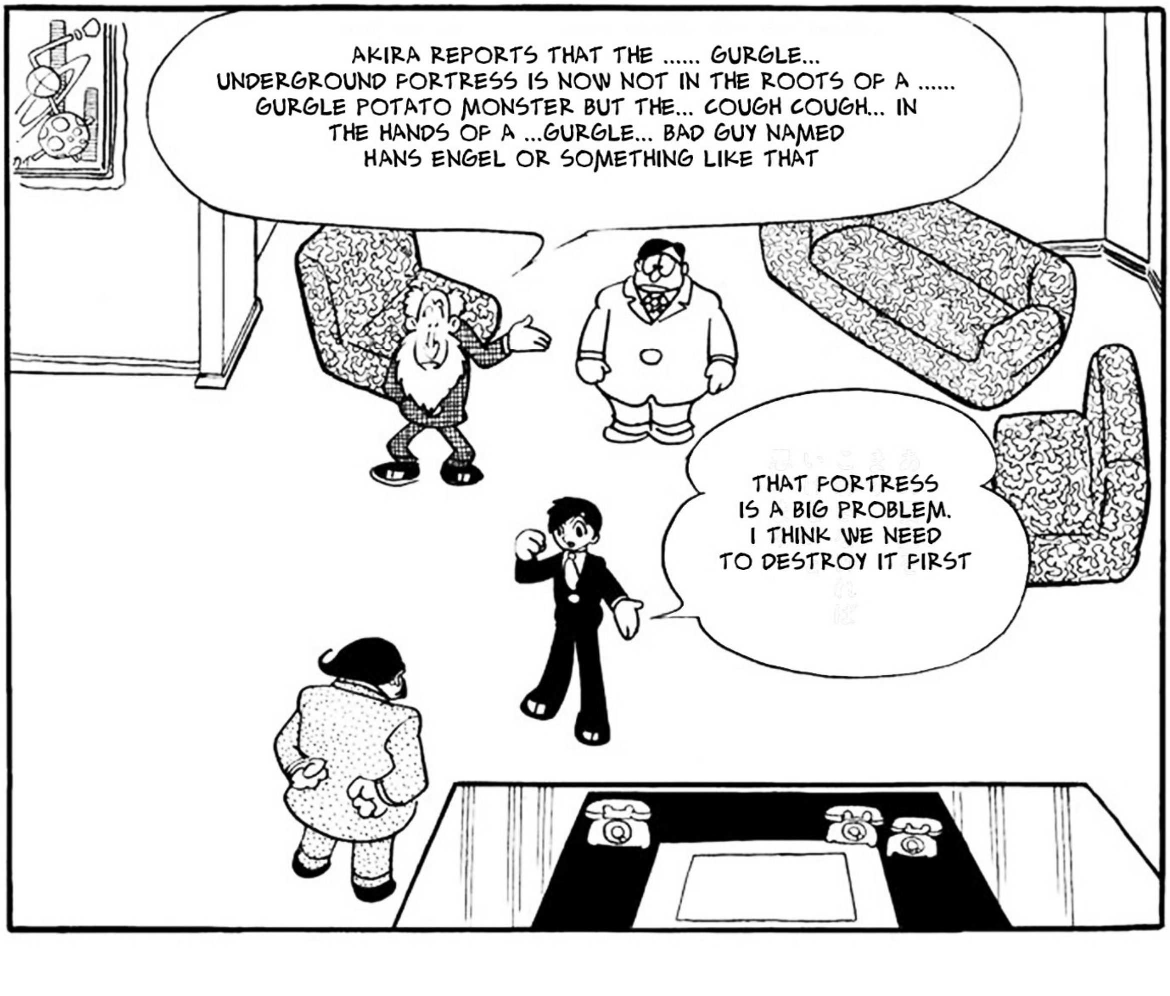

a-t-t-e-n-t-i-o-n:
i-t-i-s-t-i-m-e
f-o-r-a
m-e-e-t-i-n-g
A ROBOT?
DO YOU KNOW WHO AM I?
ガヤ
ガヤ
ガヤ
HANS ENGEL? I'VE HEARD THAT NAME SOMEWHERE
MY NAME IS HANS ENGEL! I'M NOT A ROBOT! I'M A MAN.
I'M A HUMAN BEING!
LISTEN UP, I AM THE HERO OF THIS UNDERGROUND FORTRESS!! I HAVE RESCUED THIS FORTRESS FROM THE POTATO MONSTER! SO NOW I AM IN CHARGE!
OH NO... HANS!!

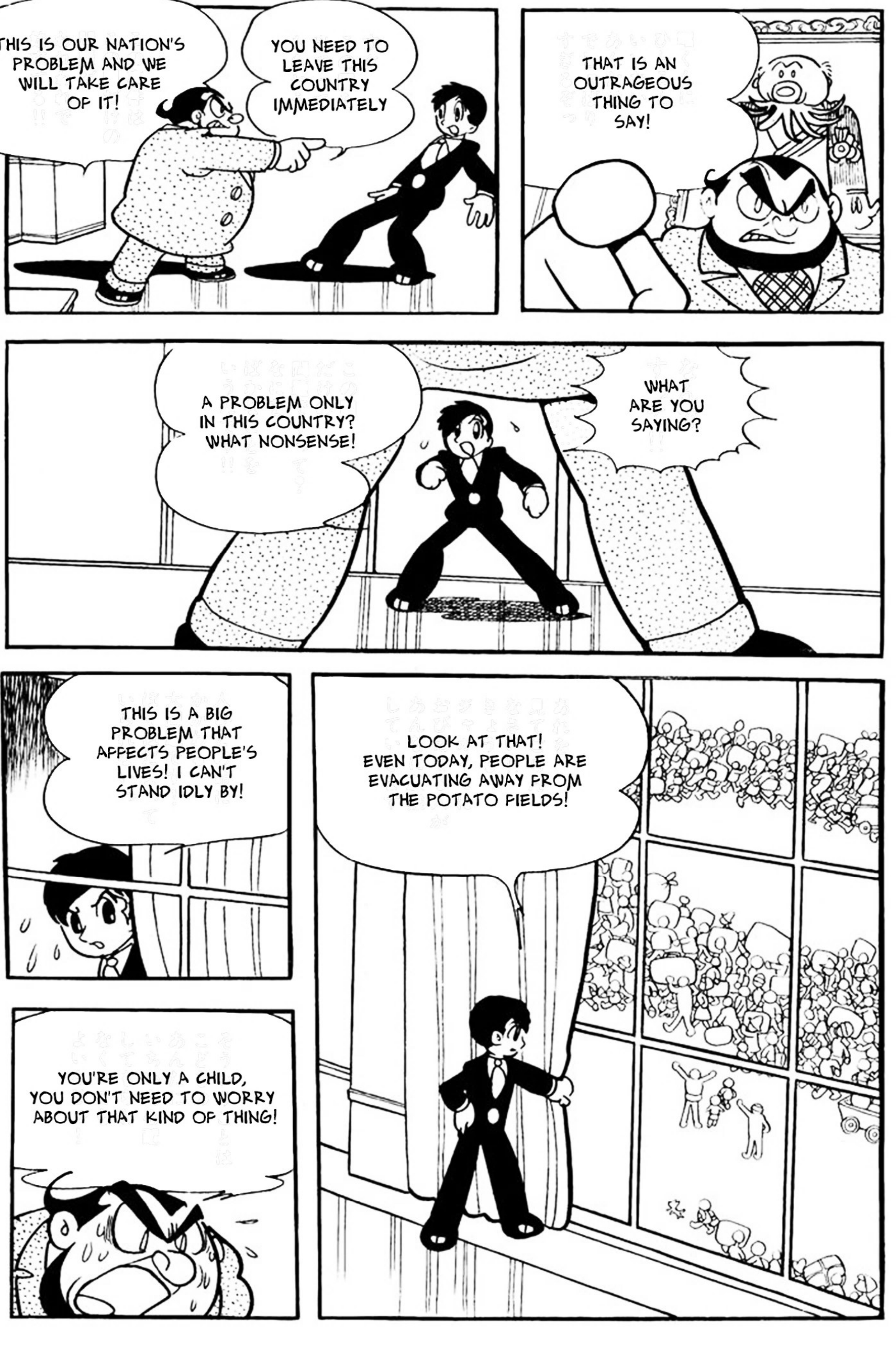

HANS!!
SINCE YOU DON'T SEEM TO DISAGREE, I'LL CONSIDER YOU ALL AGREED
WHAT'S THE DEAL HERE, HANS?
SO WE'VE SWITCHED FROM A POTATO TO A ROBOT?
N-NINA?
HANS, IS THAT REALLY YOU? IT'S ME, NINA!
HUH?
OH, HE'S RUNNING AWAY
WHAT'S GOING ON? WHY ARE YOU HERE? DID YOU SEE AKIRA?


I HAD NO IDEA NINA WAS HERE
HANS, YOU PROMISED ME SO MUCH
YOU'VE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH GREED AGAIN, WHAT HAPPENED TO THE WORDS YOU SAID TO ME BACK THEN?
NINA, I DIDN'T MAKE ANY PROMISES TO YOU
YOU DID. YOU AGREED TO STOP FIGHTING FOR THE SAKE OF WORLD PEACE
YOU ARE NO LONGER THE HANS ENGEL OF THE NAZI ALLIANCE
NINA! LISTEN, I'M ......
DO YOU HAVE A HUMAN HEART OR ARE YOU REALLY JUST A COLD ROBOT INSIDE?
NINA .....


HM

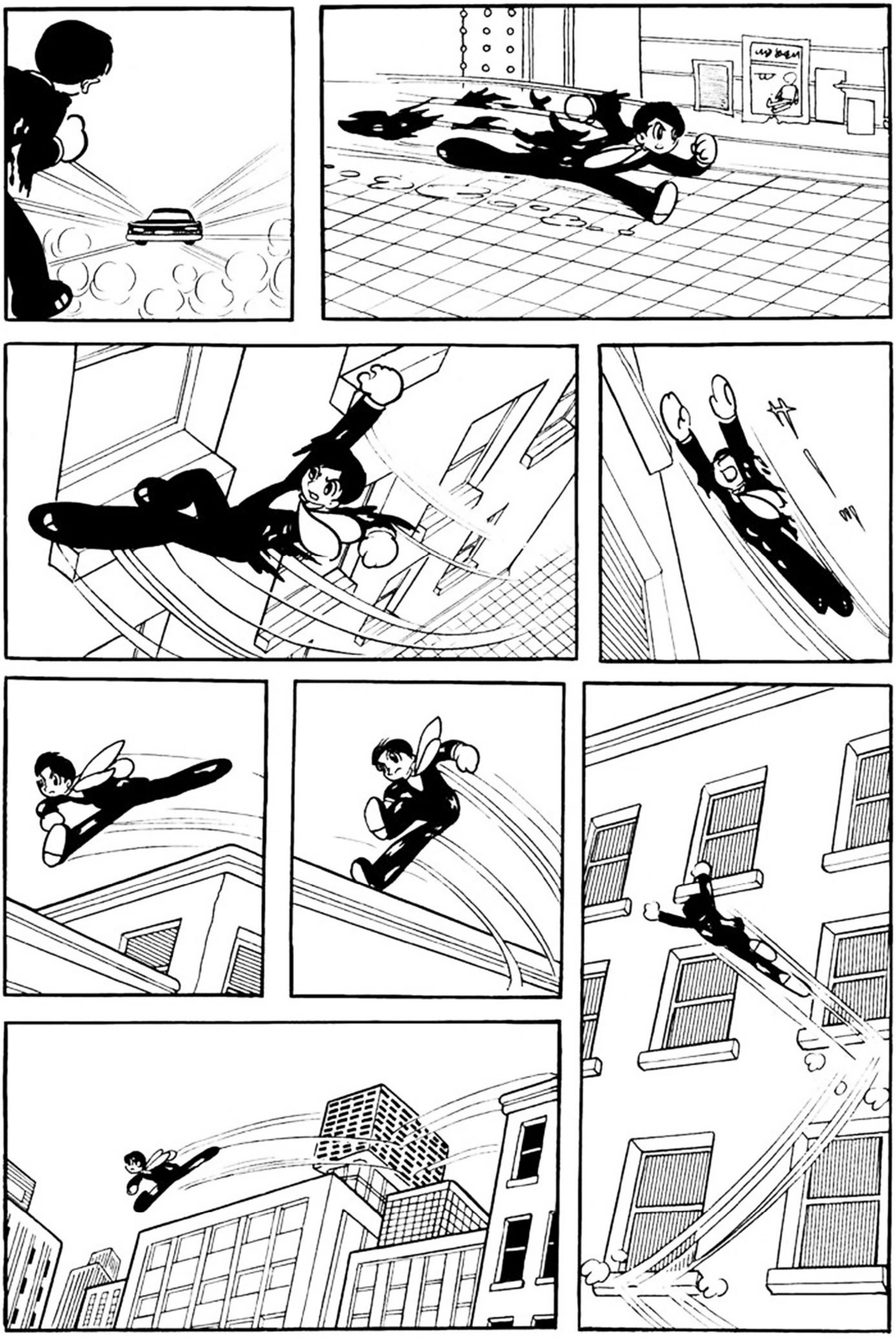

OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF GALEA

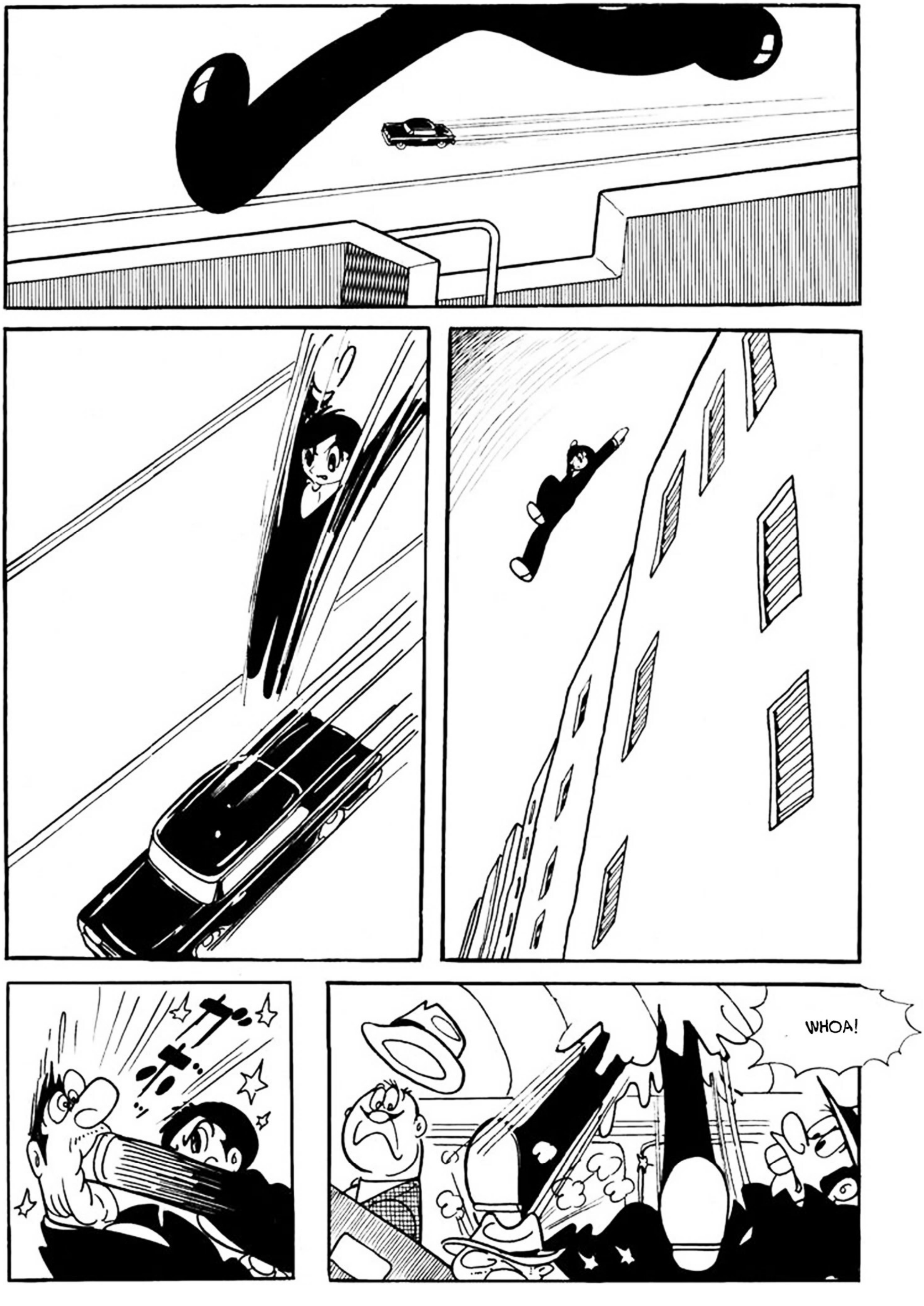

AKIRA REPORTS THAT THE ...... GURGLE... UNDERGROUND FORTRESS IS NOW NOT IN THE ROOTS OF A ...... GURGLE POTATO MONSTER BUT THE... COUGH COUGH... IN THE HANDS OF A ...GURGLE... BAD GUY NAMED HANS ENGEL OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT
THAT FORTRESS IS A BIG PROBLEM. I THINK WE NEED TO DESTROY IT FIRST

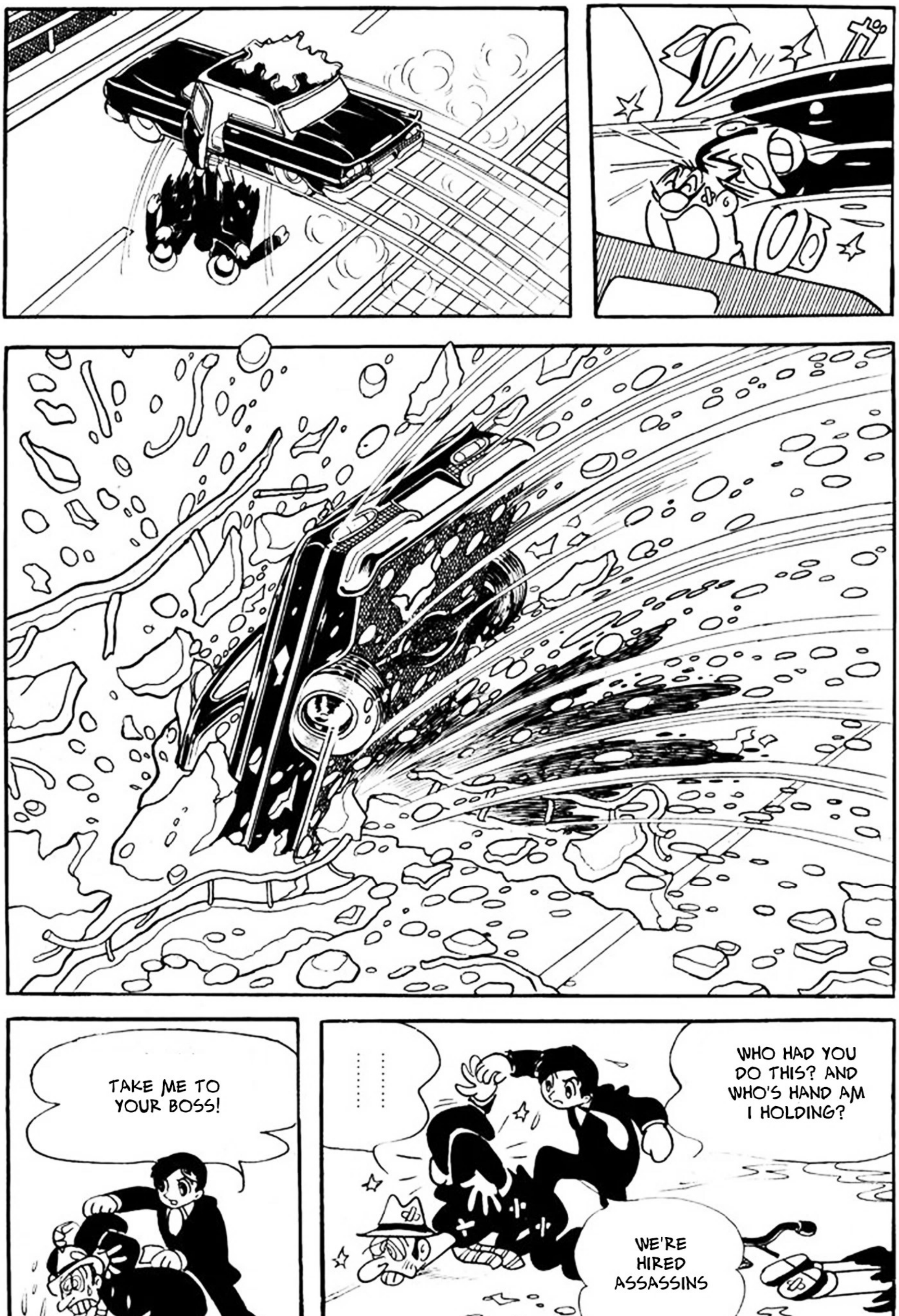

THIS IS OUR NATION'S PROBLEM AND WE WILL TAKE CARE OF IT!
YOU NEED TO LEAVE THIS COUNTRY IMMEDIATELY
THAT IS AN OUTRAGEOUS THING TO SAY!
A PROBLEM ONLY IN THIS COUNTRY? WHAT NONSENSE!
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?
THIS IS A BIG PROBLEM THAT AFFECTS PEOPLE'S LIVES! I CAN'T STAND IDLY BY!
LOOK AT THAT! EVEN TODAY, PEOPLE ARE EVACUATING AWAY FROM THE POTATO FIELDS!
YOU'RE ONLY A CHILD, YOU DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT THAT KIND OF THING!

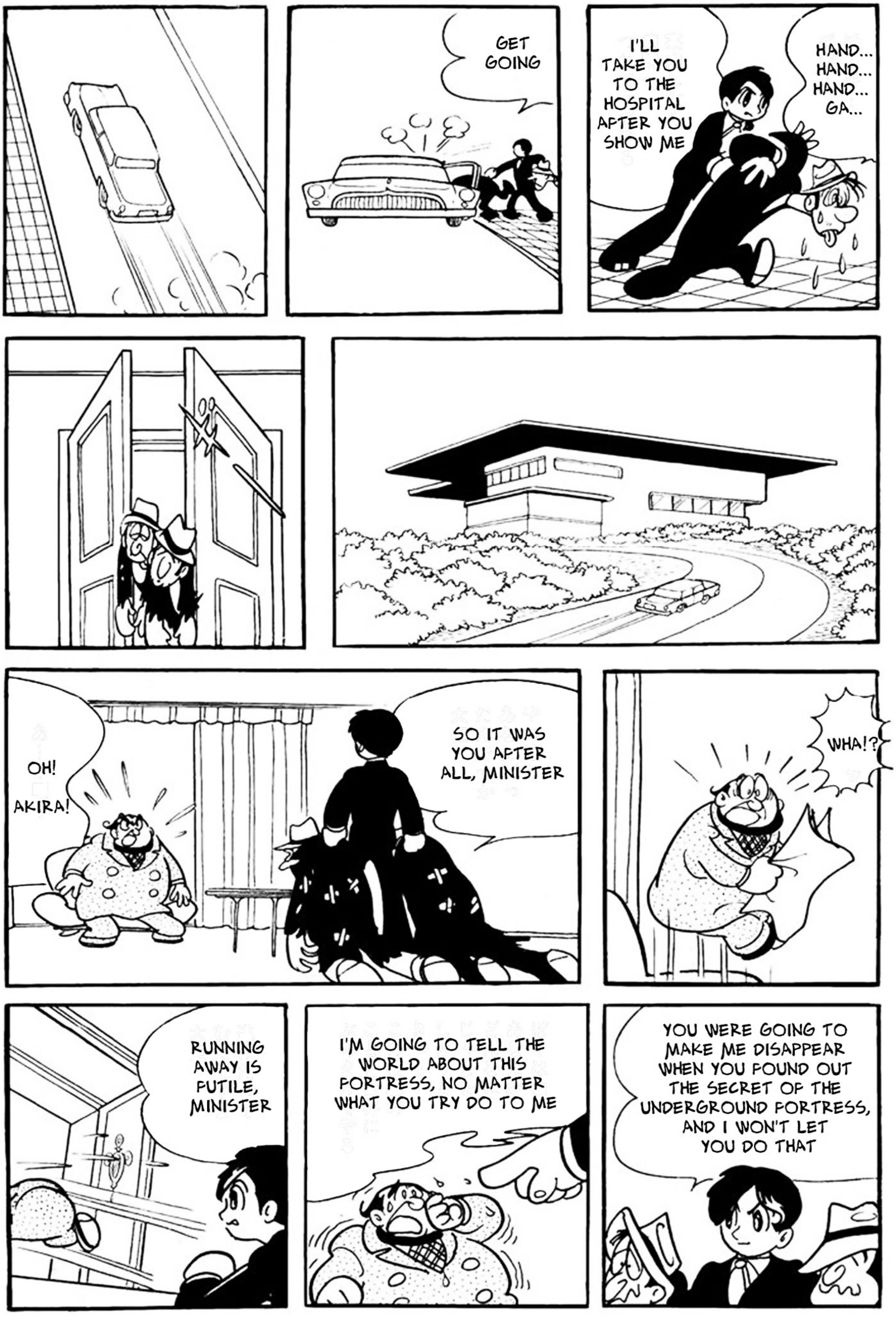

I GET IT... YOU DON'T WANT YOUR UNDERGROUND PORT-RESS TO BE DESTROYED!
WELL THEN, I'M SORRY TO HEAR THAT!
I'VE BEEN HAUNTED BY THAT UNDERGROUND FORTRESS FOR SO LONG THAT I'D LIKE TO TEAR IT DOWN FIRST AND FOREMOST
AKIRA, BE CAREFUL WITH YOUR WORDS, THAT FORTRESS BELONGS TO THIS COUNTRY!
THIS IS RIDICULOUS, THE GOVERNMENT OF THIS COUNTRY CARES MORE ABOUT THAT UNDERGROUND FORTRESS THAN THAT POTATOE MONSTER

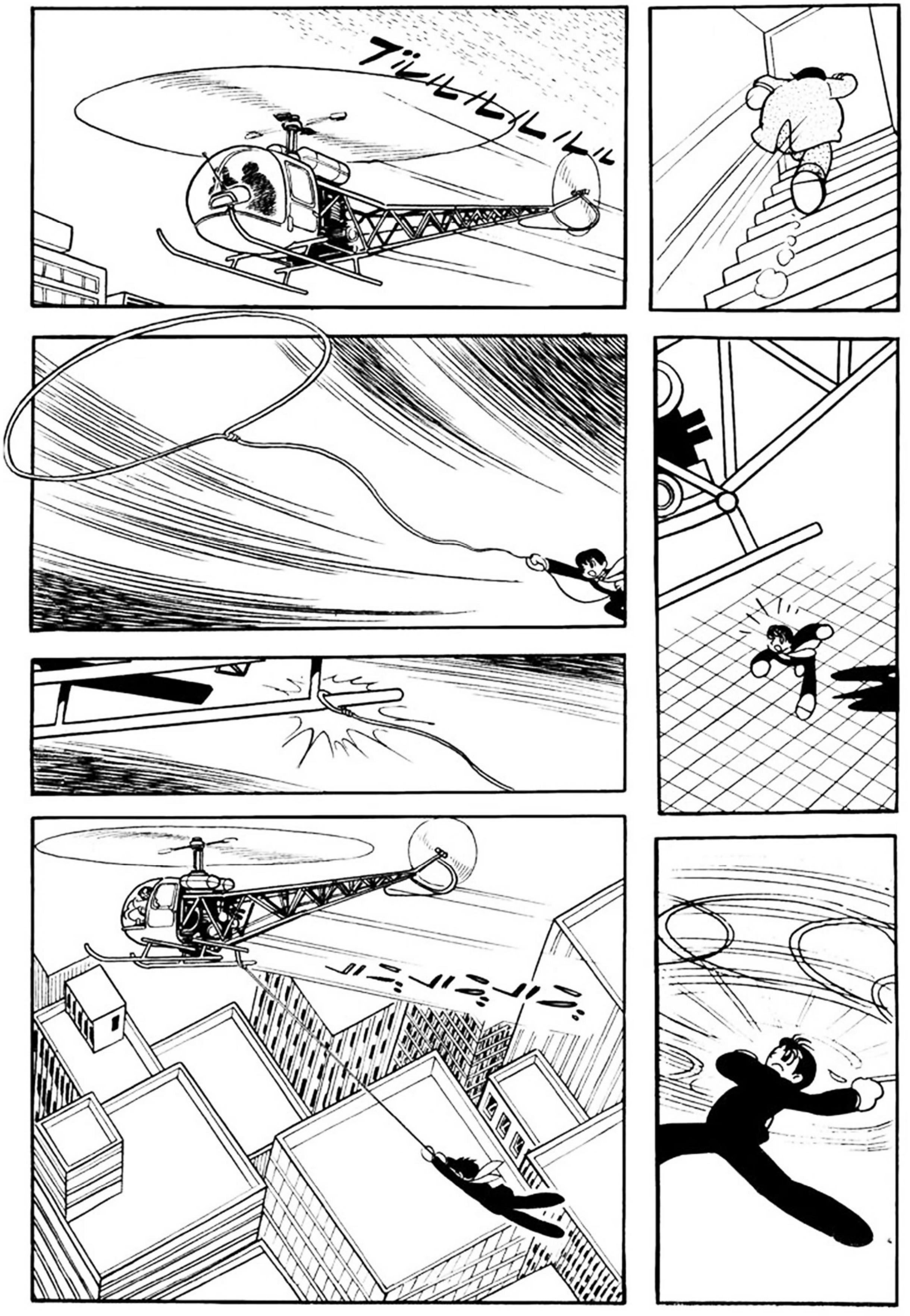

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GOOD THING I TOOK THE FORMULA

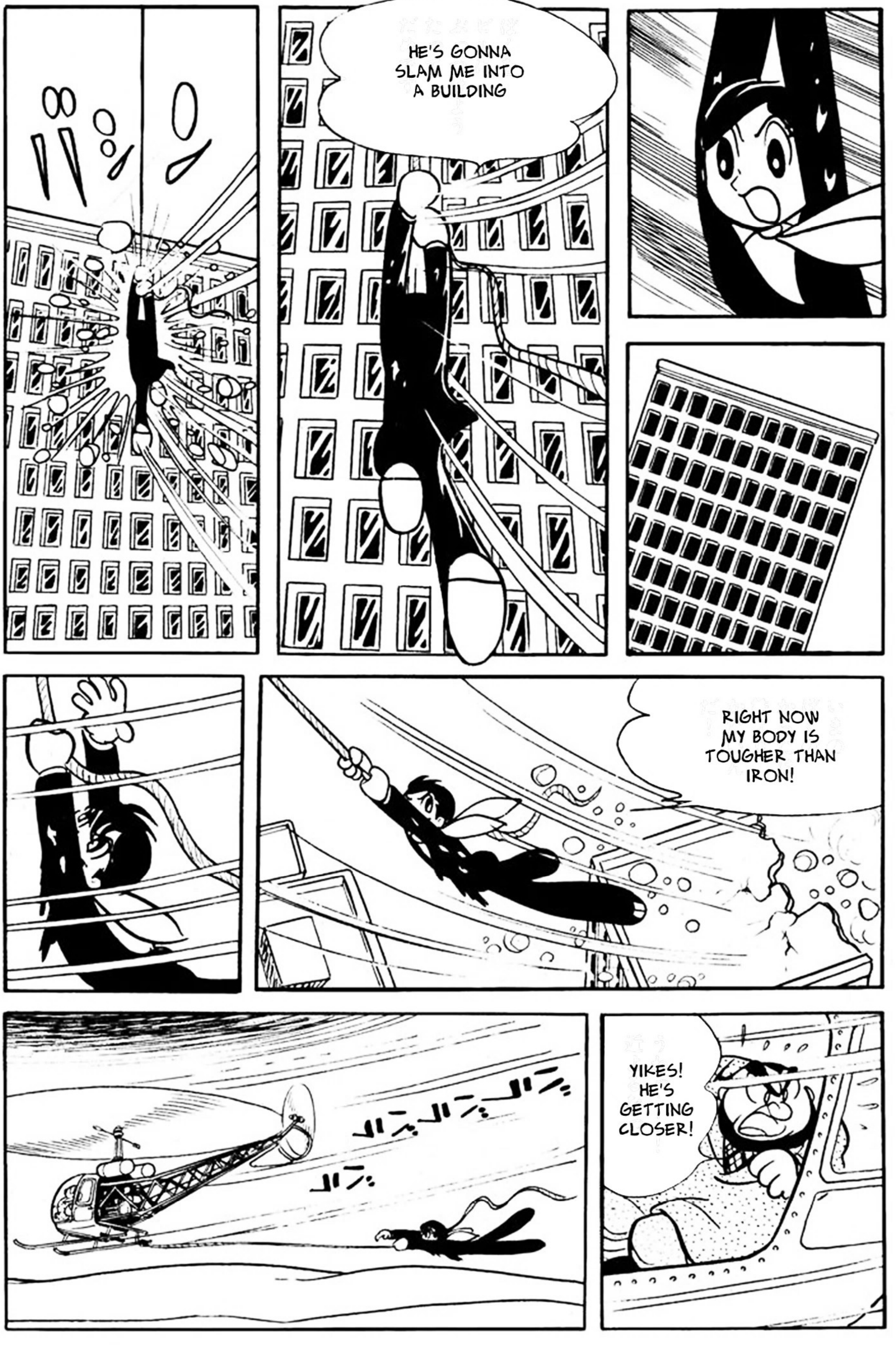


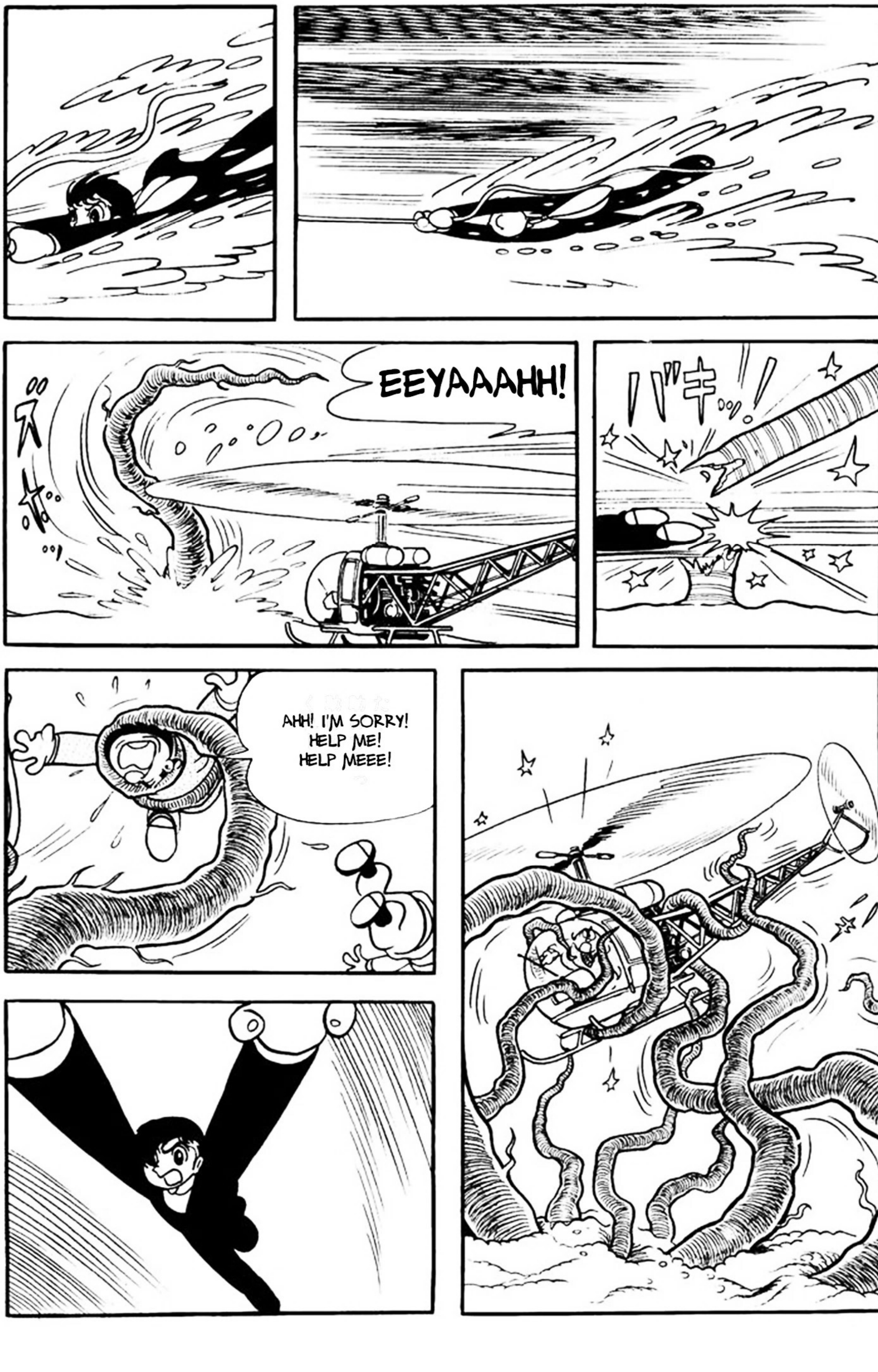

WHOA!

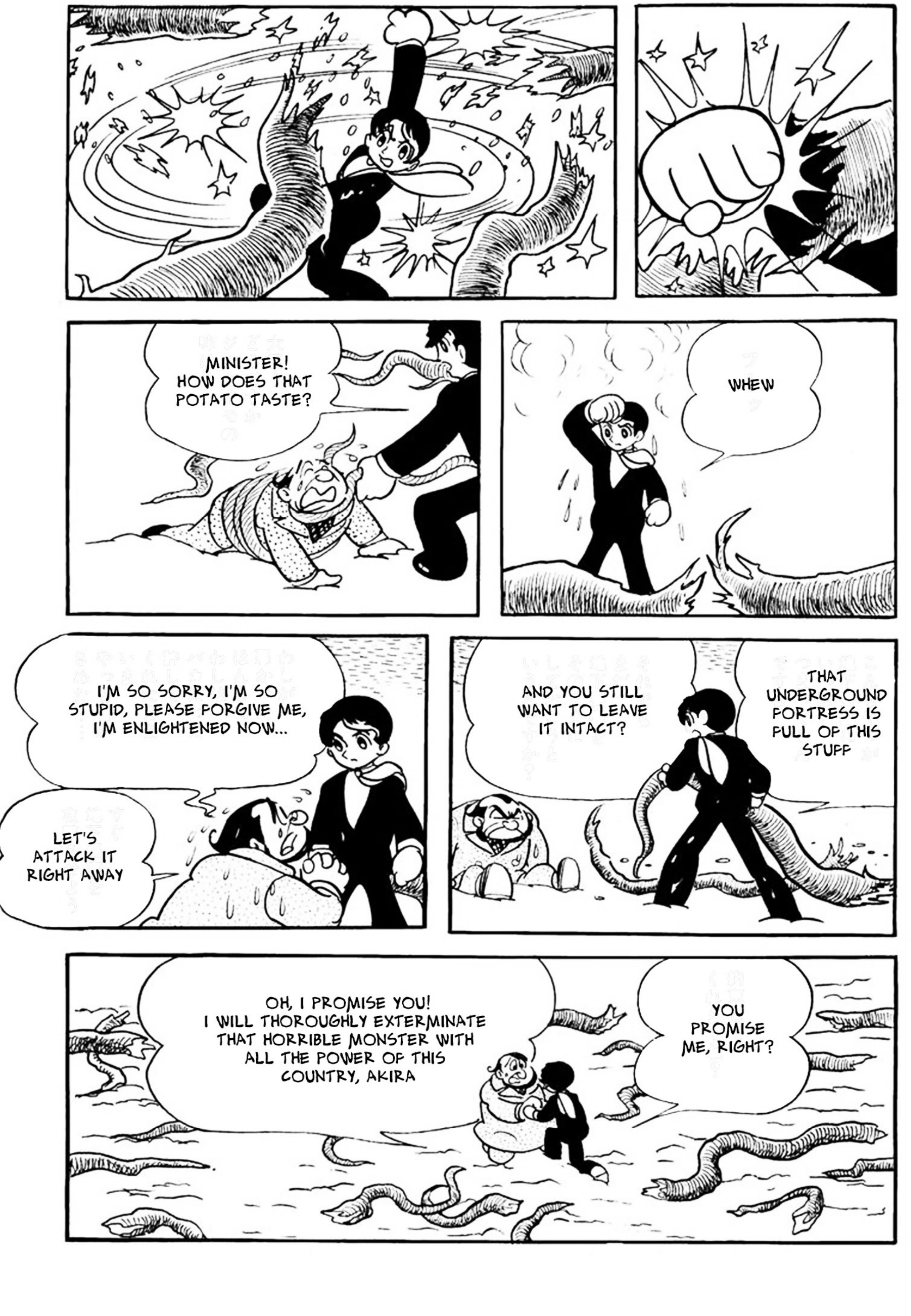

WHO HAD YOU DO THIS? AND WHO'S HAND AM I HOLDING?
......
WE'RE HIRED ASSASSINS
TAKE ME TO YOUR BOSS!

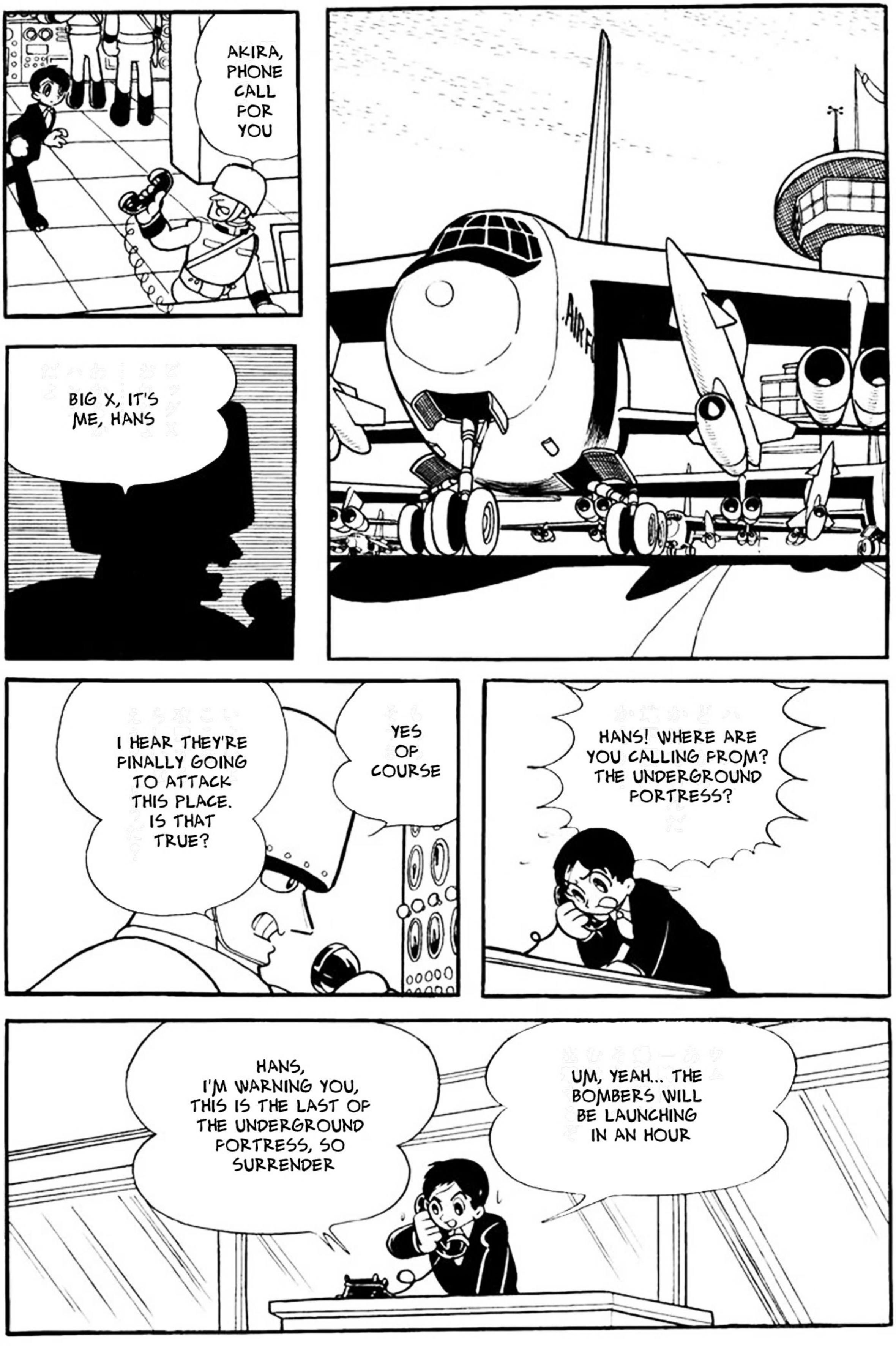

GET GOING
I'LL TAKE YOU TO THE HOSPITAL AFTER YOU SHOW ME
HAND... HAND... HAND... GA...
SO IT WAS YOU AFTER ALL, MINISTER
OH! AKIRA!
WHA!?
RUNNING AWAY IS FUTILE, MINISTER
I'M GOING TO TELL THE WORLD ABOUT THIS FORTRESS, NO MATTER WHAT YOU TRY DO TO ME
YOU WERE GOING TO MAKE ME DISAPPEAR WHEN YOU FOUND OUT THE SECRET OF THE UNDERGROUND FORTRESS, AND I WON'T LET YOU DO THAT


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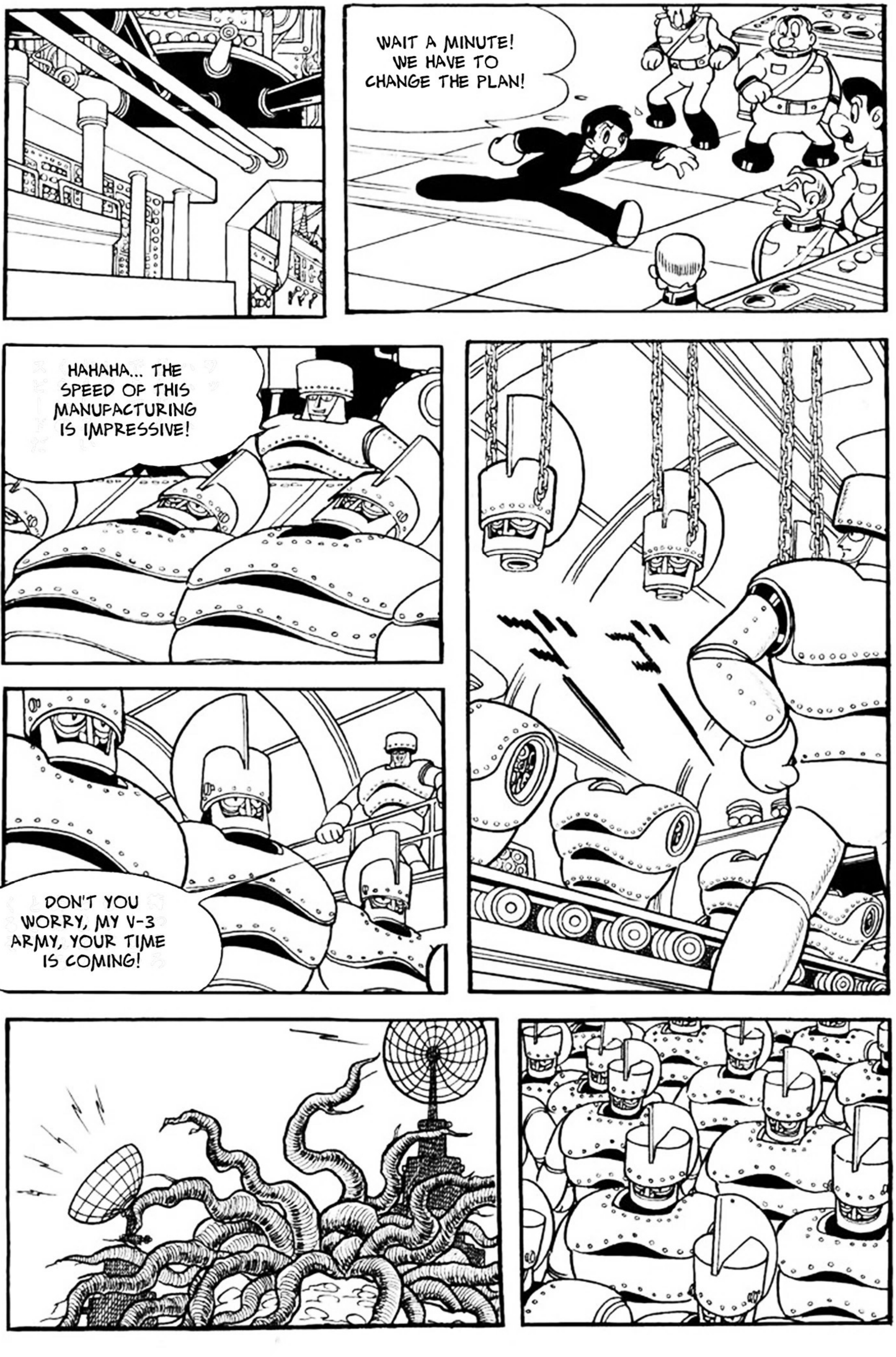

HE'S GONNA SLAM ME INTO A BUILDING
RIGHT NOW MY BODY IS TOUGHER THAN IRON!
YIKES! HE'S GETTING CLOSER!

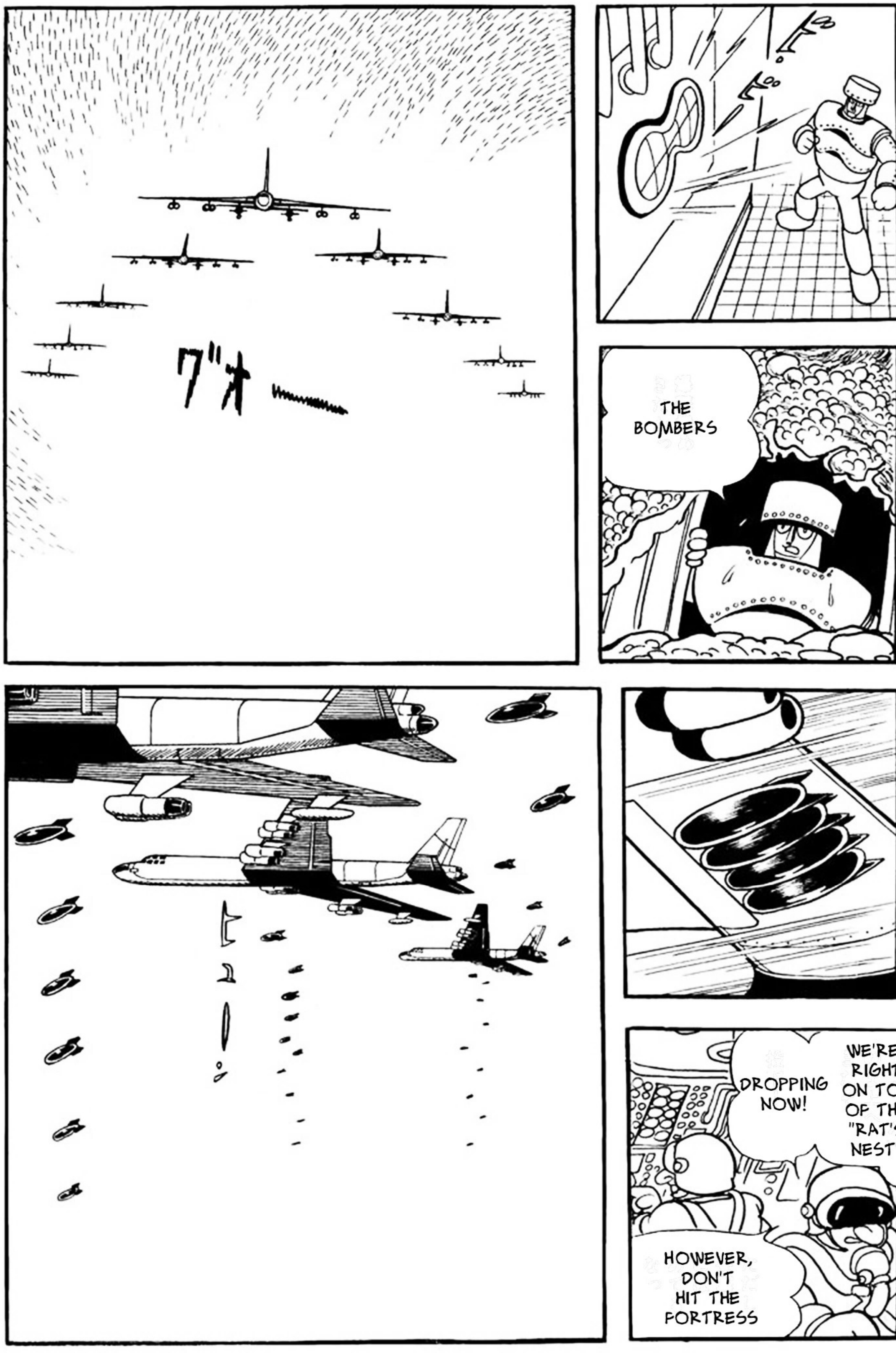

EEYAAAHH!
AHH! I'M SORRY! HELP ME! HELP MEEE!

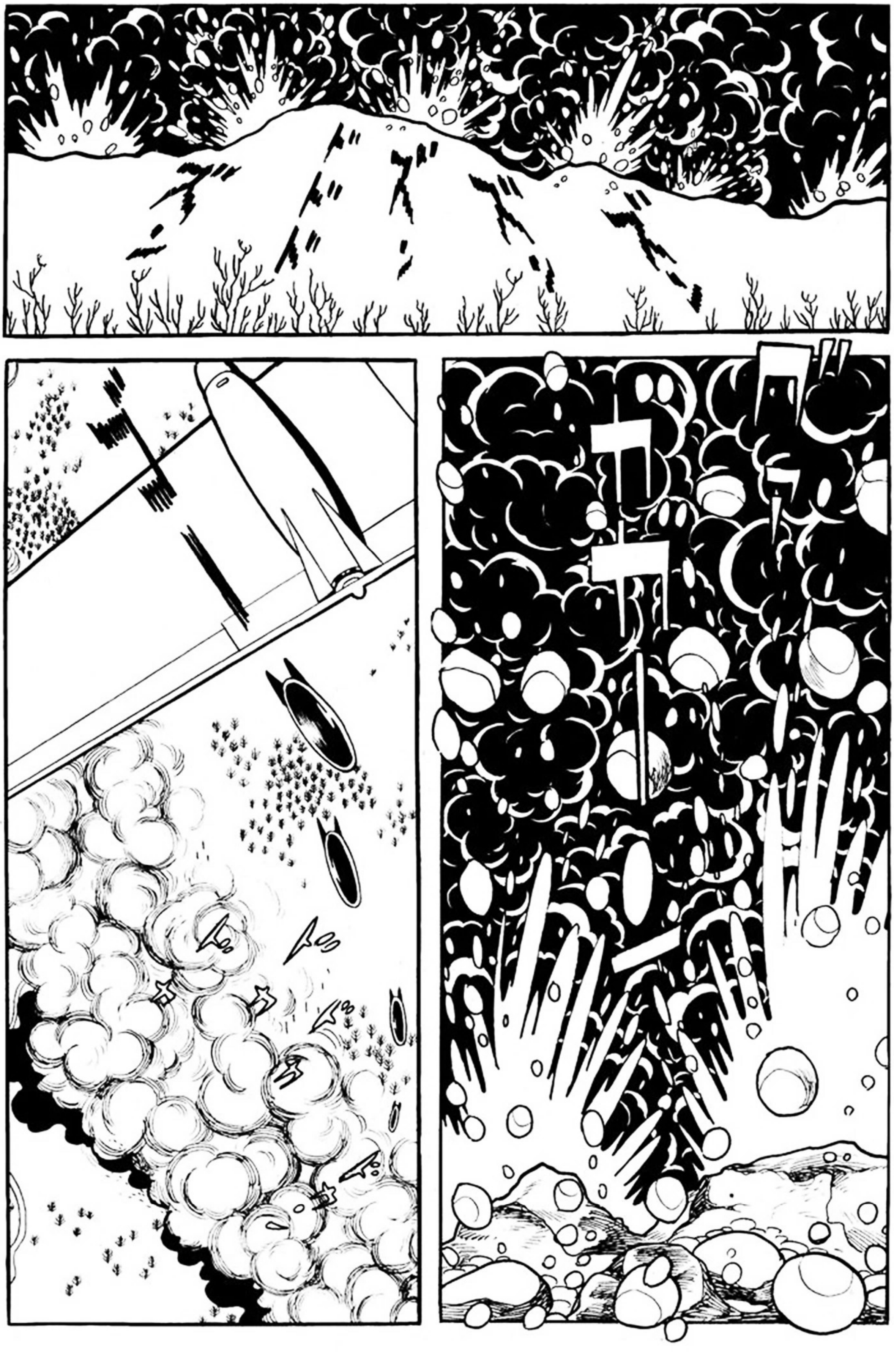

MINISTER! HOW DOES THAT POTATO TASTE?
WHEW
I'M SO SORRY, I'M SO STUPID, PLEASE FORGIVE ME, I'M ENLIGHTENED NOW...
LET'S ATTACK IT RIGHT AWAY
THAT UNDERGROUND FORTRESS IS FULL OF THIS STUFF
AND YOU STILL WANT TO LEAVE IT INTACT?
YOU PROMISE ME, RIGHT?
OH, I PROMISE YOU! I WILL THOROUGHLY EXTERMINATE THAT HORRIBLE MONSTER WITH ALL THE POWER OF THIS COUNTRY, AKIRA

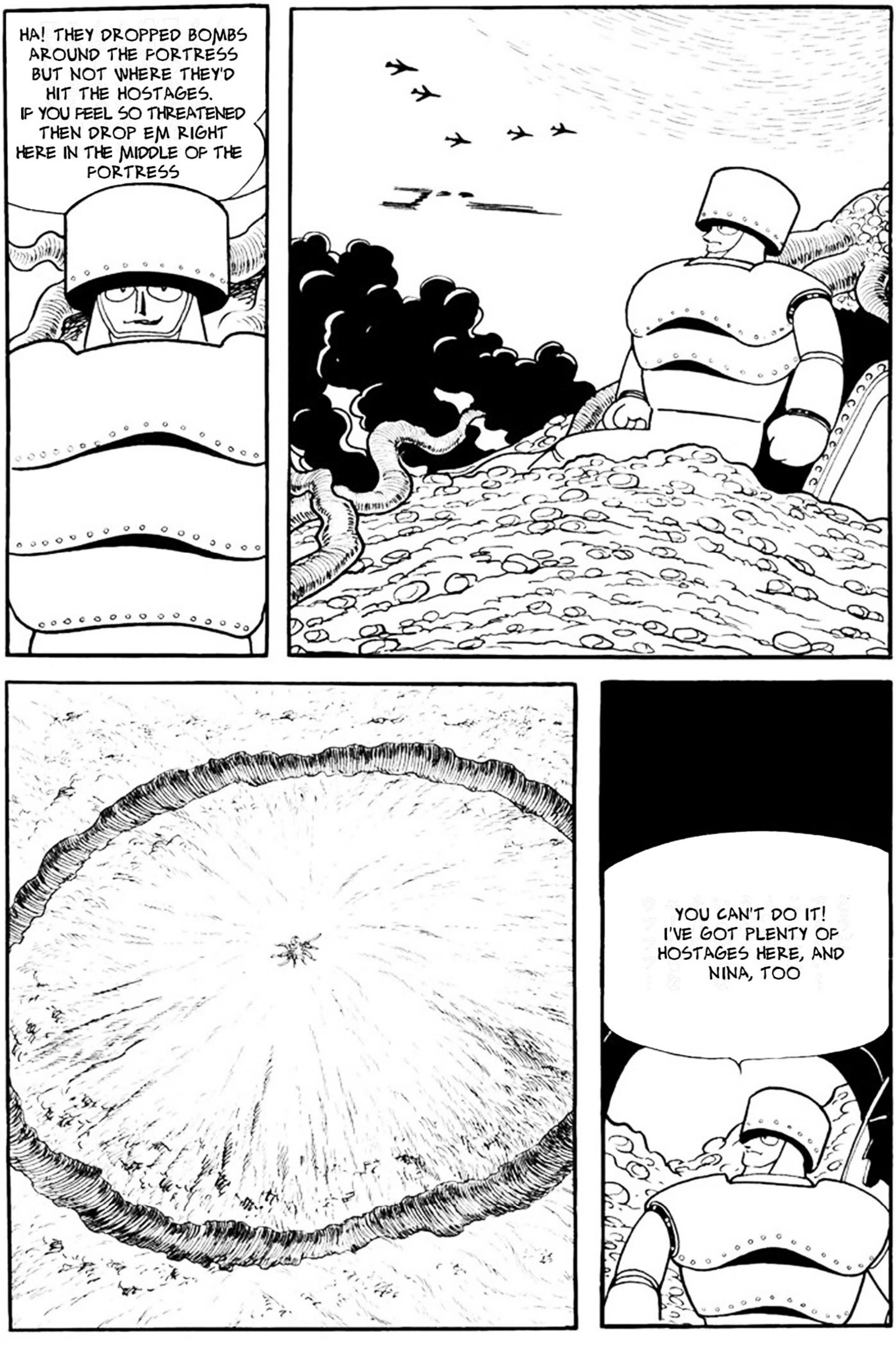

AKIRA, PHONE CALL FOR YOU
BIG X, IT'S ME, HANS
HANS! WHERE ARE YOU CALLING FROM? THE UNDERGROUND FORTRESS?
YES OF COURSE
I HEAR THEY'RE FINALLY GOING TO ATTACK THIS PLACE. IS THAT TRUE?
UM, YEAH... THE BOMBERS WILL BE LAUNCHING IN AN HOUR
HANS, I'M WARNING YOU, THIS IS THE LAST OF THE UNDERGROUND FORTRESS, SO SURRENDER

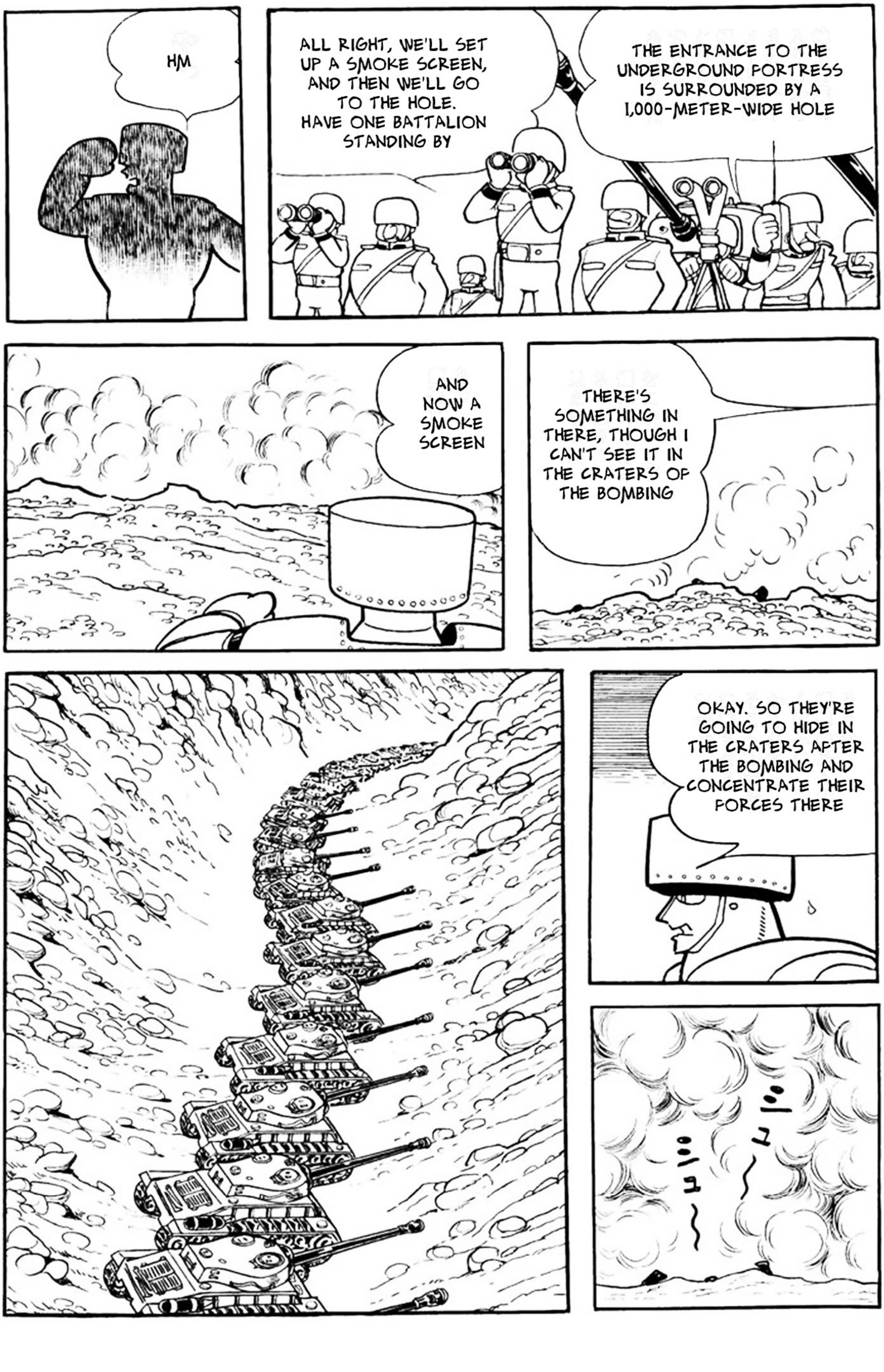

YOU CAN TELL ME TO SURRENDER ALL YOU WANT, BIG X, BUT THAT'S NEVER GOING TO HAPPEN
THERE ARE A LOT OF HOSTAGES IN HERE. IF YOU BOMB THIS PLACE YOU'LL KILL THEM ALL. DO YOU WANT THAT?
HOSTAGES? I THOUGHT EVERY-ONE WAS KILLED BY THE POTATO MONSTER. THEY'RE STILL ALIVE?
AND THEY'RE ALL WORKING, TOO...
NINA IS HERE TOO
WHAT? NINA IS STILL ALIVE?!?
YES, SHE'S ALIVE. SO YOU'RE STILL GOING TO BOMB THIS PLACE?
......
YOU'RE GOING TO USE NINA AS A HUMAN SHIELD....YOU'RE A DISGRACE!
WHATEVER... THE HOSTAGES AND NINA WILL ALL BE KILLED IF ONE SHELL HITS THIS PLACE
THE ATTACK WAS LAUNCHED 30 MINUTES AGO!

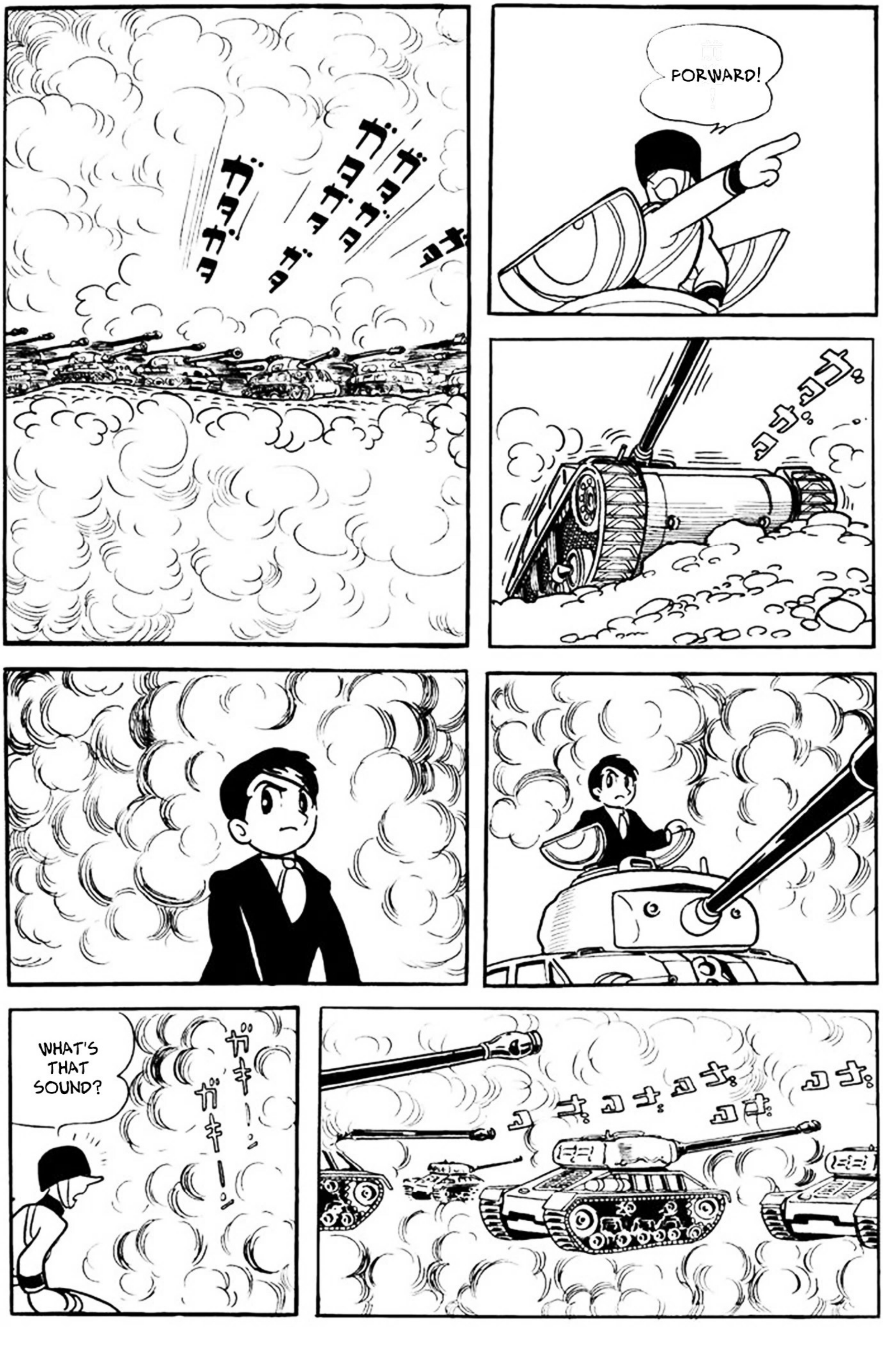

WAIT A MINUTE! WE HAVE TO CHANGE THE PLAN!
HAHAHA... THE SPEED OF THIS MANUFACTURING IS IMPRESSIVE!
DON'T YOU WORRY, MY V-3 ARMY, YOUR TIME IS COMING!

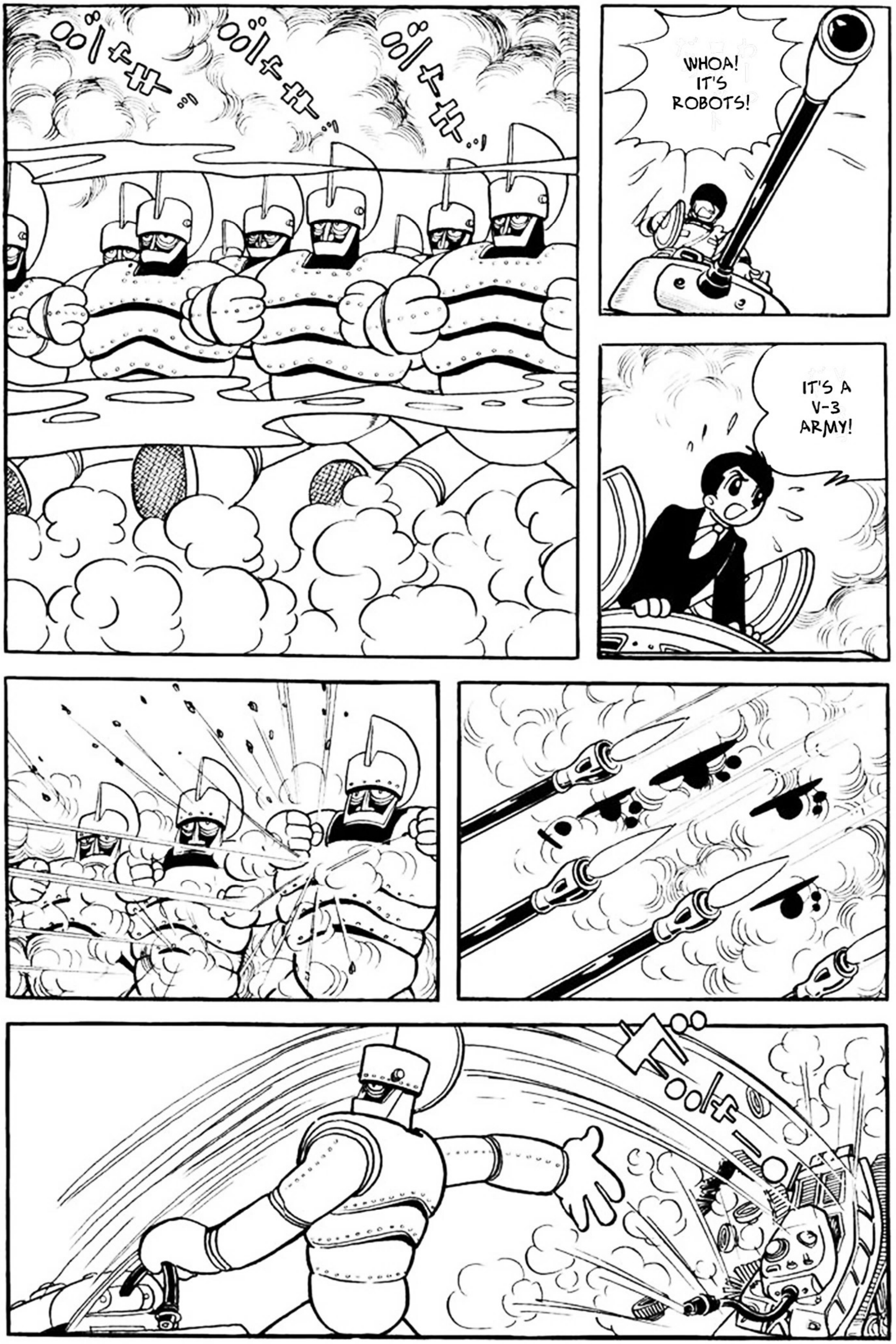

THE BOMBERS
グオー
WE'RE RIGHT ON TOP OF THE "RAT'S NEST"
DROPPING NOW!
HOWEVER, DON'T HIT THE FORTRESS
ヒュー!



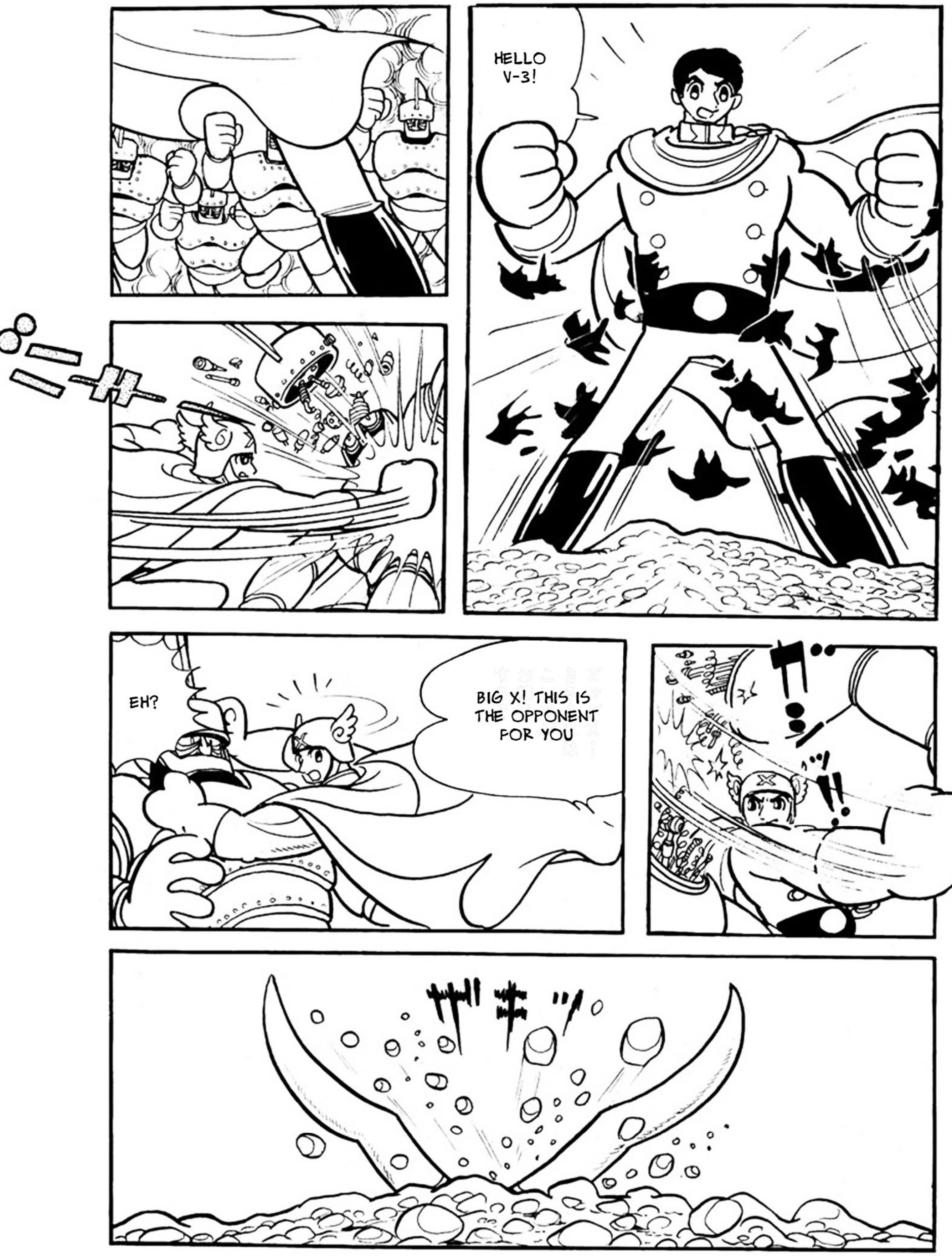

HA! THEY DROPPED BOMBS AROUND THE FORTRESS BUT NOT WHERE THEY'D HIT THE HOSTAGES. IF YOU FEEL SO THREATENED THEN DROP EM RIGHT HERE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE FORTRESS
YOU CAN'T DO IT! I'VE GOT PLENTY OF HOSTAGES HERE, AND NINA, TOO

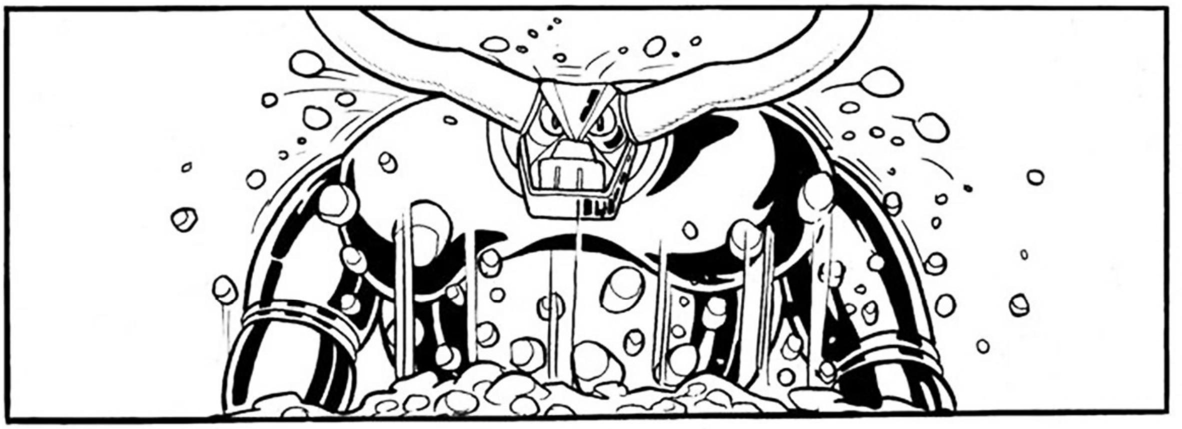

THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERGROUND FORTRESS IS SURROUNDED BY A 1,000-METER-WIDE HOLE
ALL RIGHT, WE'LL SET UP A SMOKE SCREEN, AND THEN WE'LL GO TO THE HOLE. HAVE ONE BATTALION STANDING BY
HM
THERE'S SOMETHING IN THERE, THOUGH I CAN'T SEE IT IN THE CRATERS OF THE BOMBING
AND NOW A SMOKE SCREEN
OKAY. SO THEY'RE GOING TO HIDE IN THE CRATERS AFTER THE BOMBING AND CONCENTRATE THEIR FORCES THERE

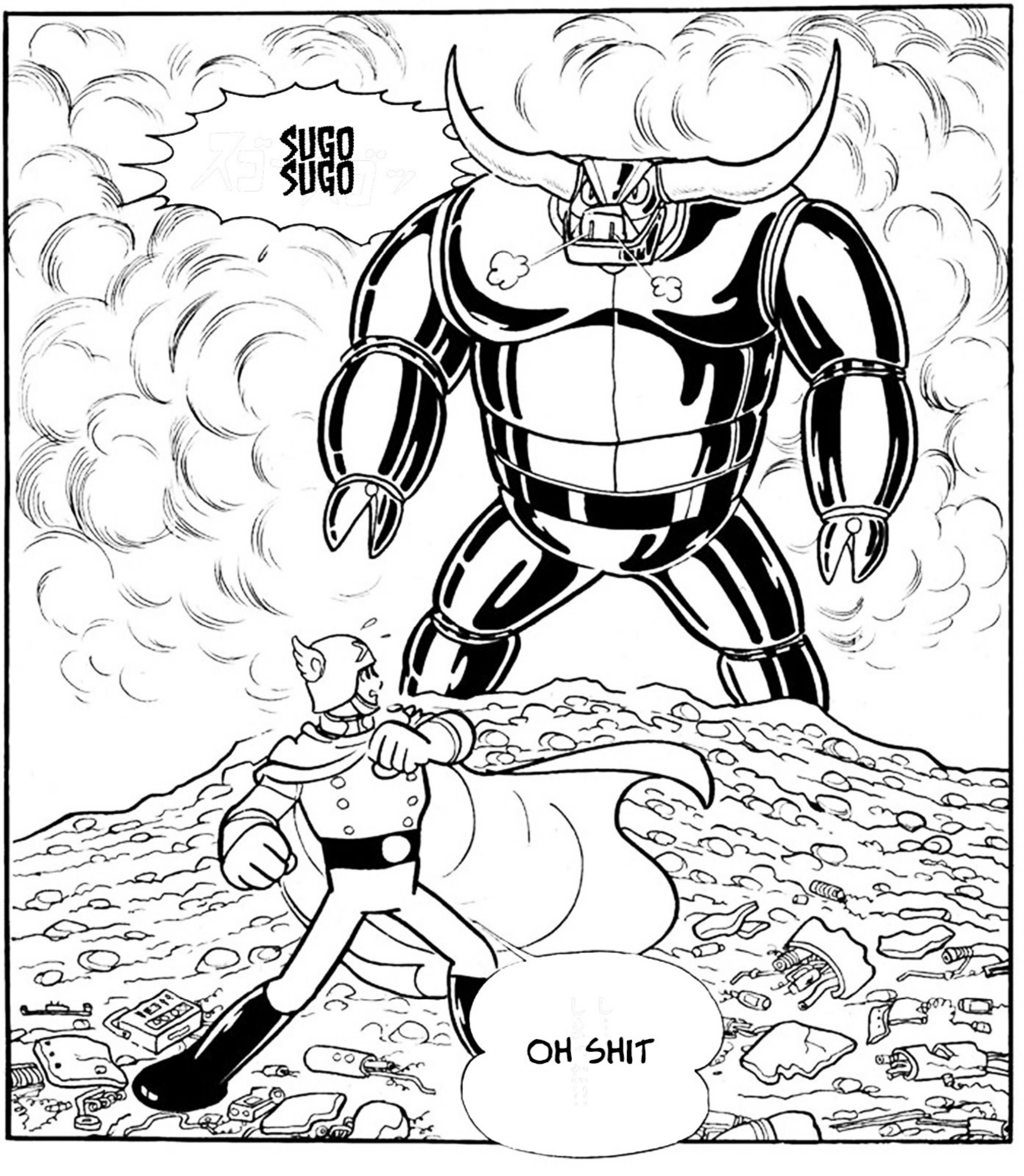

FORWARD!
WHAT'S THAT SOUND?

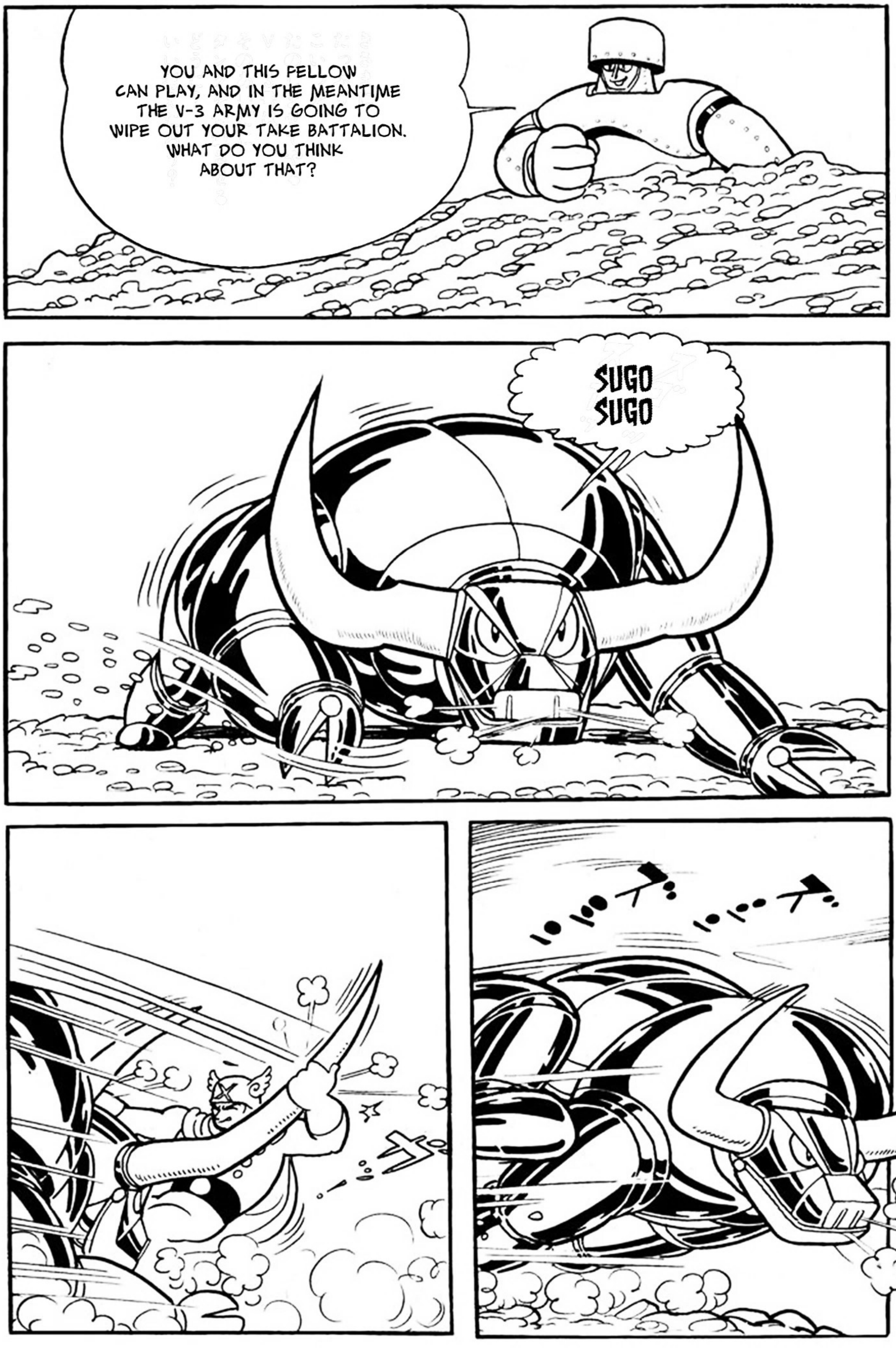

WHOA! IT'S ROBOTS!
IT'S A V-3 ARMY!

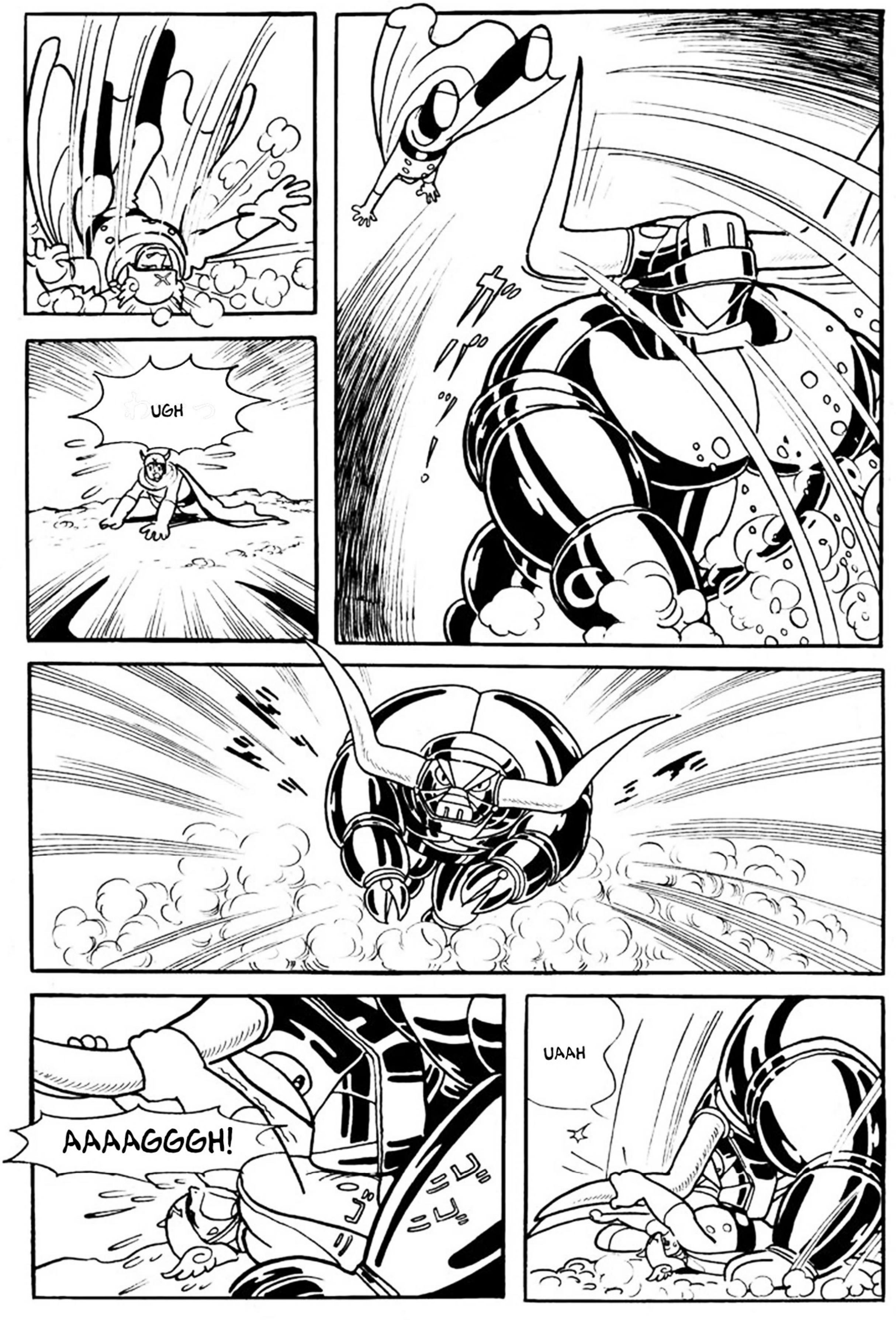

THEY'RE TOO POWERFUL! WE HAVE TO RETREAT!
ON THE FOURTH SCALE
OKAY, IT'S MY TURN

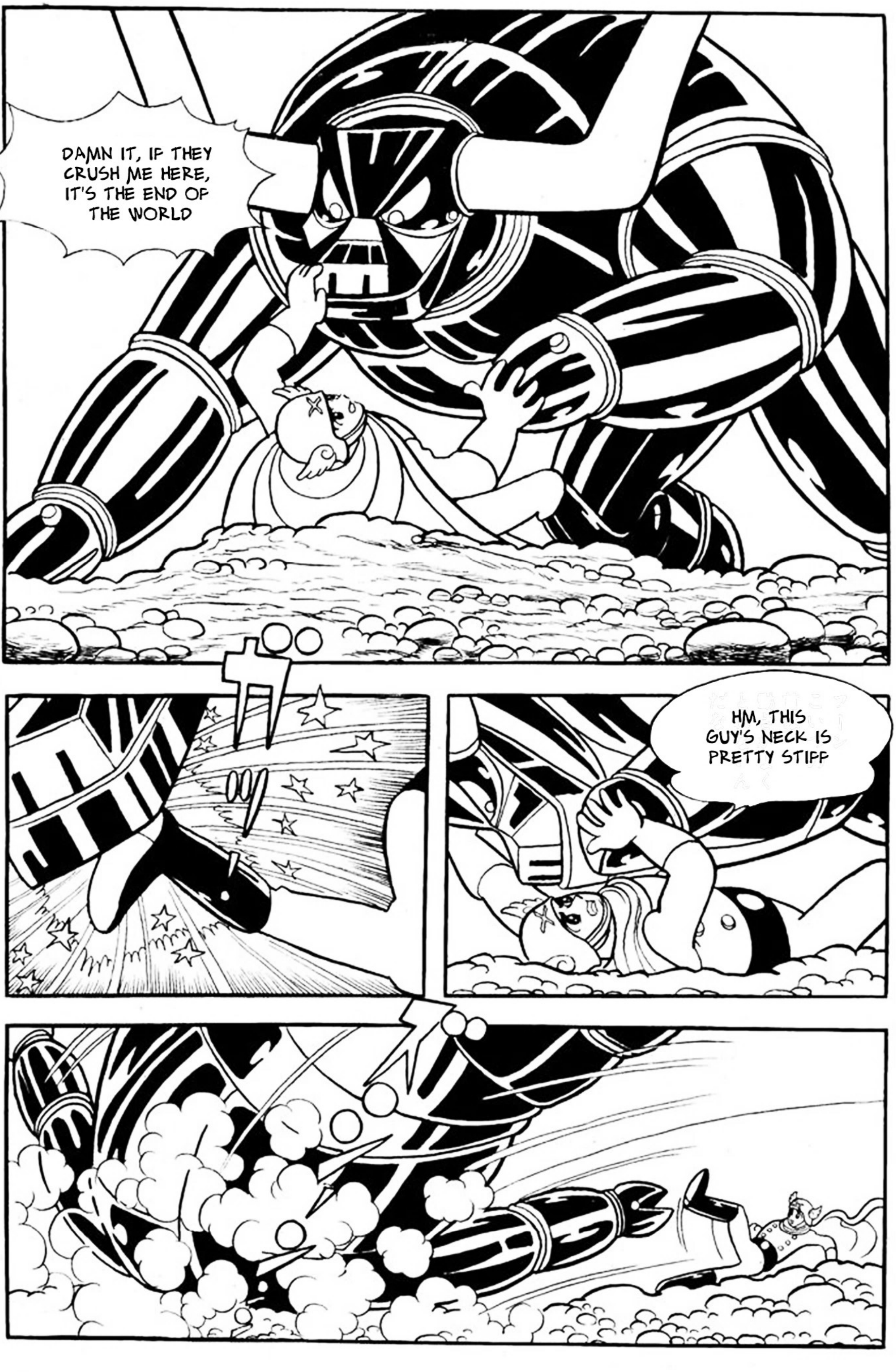

HELLO V-3!
EH?
BIG X! THIS IS THE OPPONENT FOR YOU

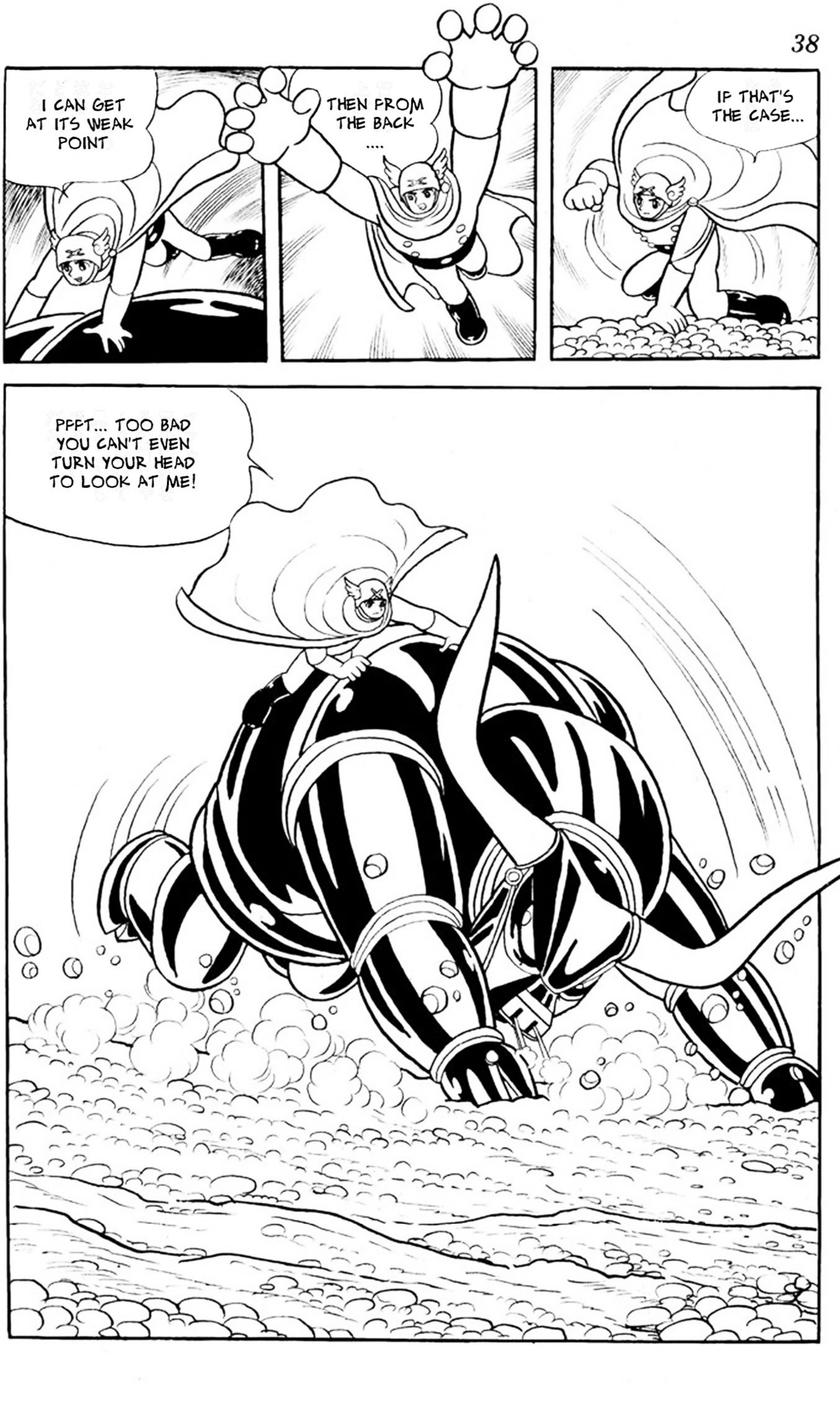


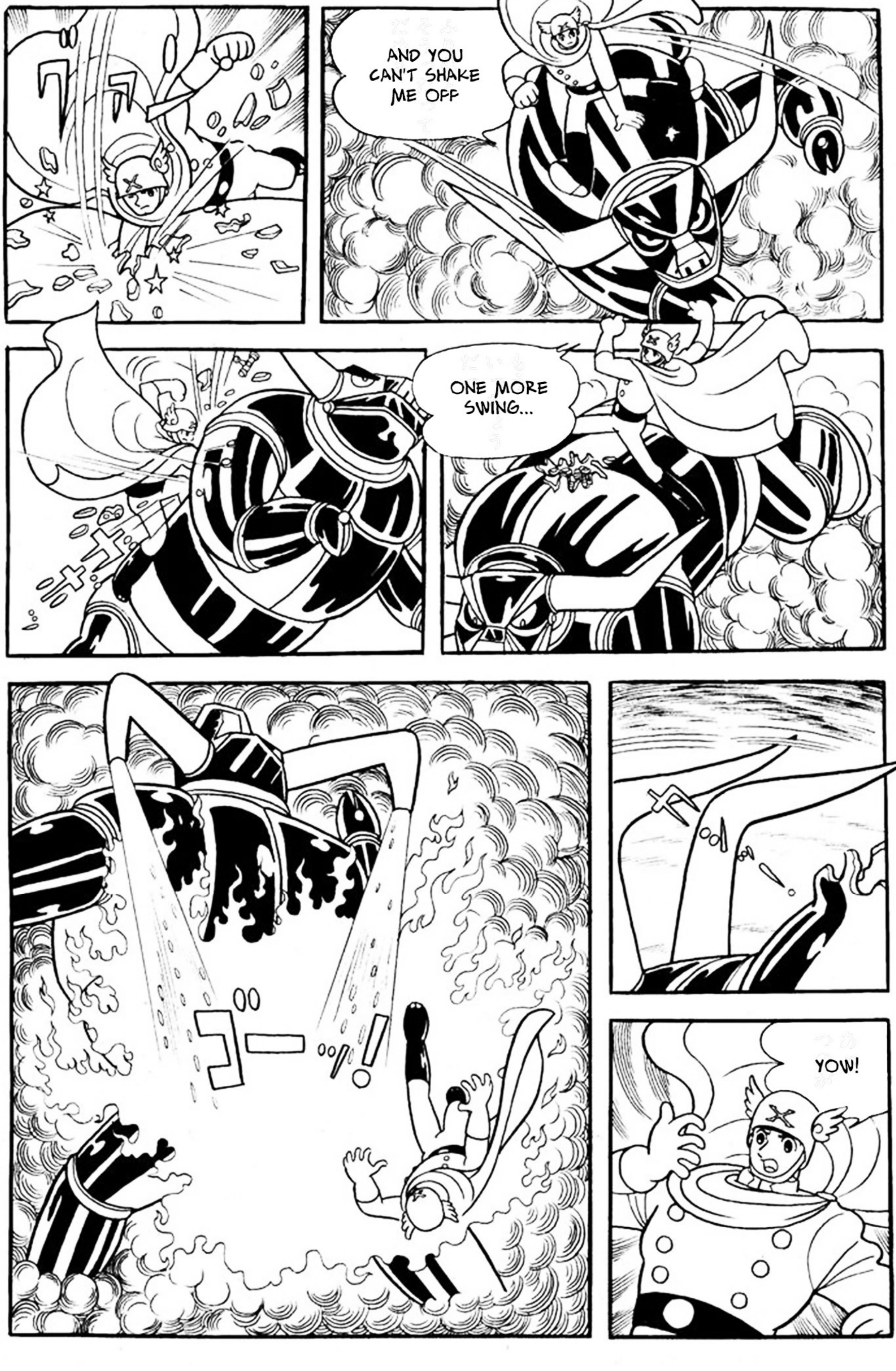

SUGO SUGO
OH SHIT

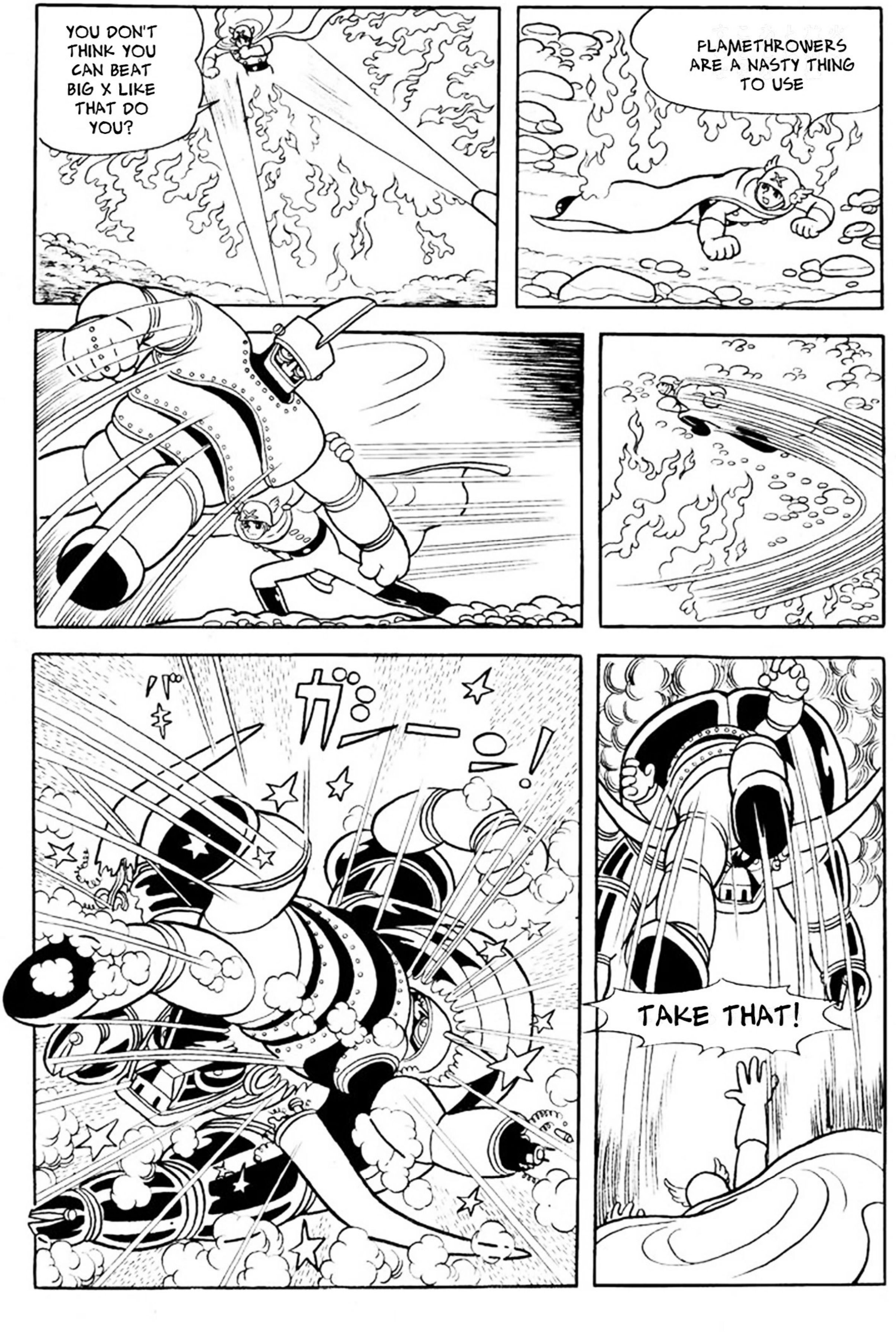

YOU AND THIS FELLOW CAN PLAY, AND IN THE MEANTIME THE V-3 ARMY IS GOING TO WIPE OUT YOUR TAKE BATTALION. WHAT DO YOU THINK ABOUT THAT?
SUGO SUGO

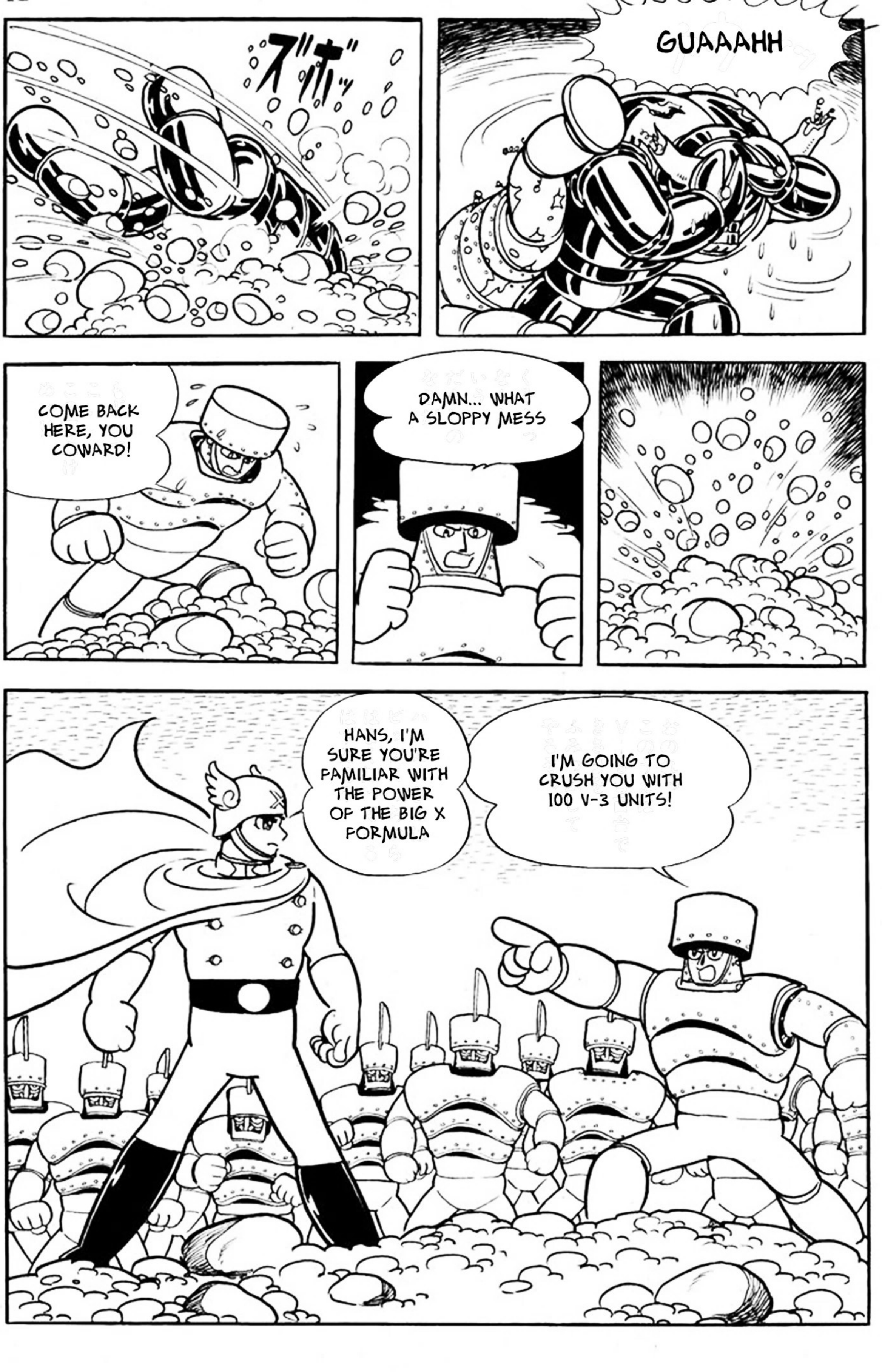

UGH
AAAAGGGH!
UAAH


DAMN IT, IF THEY CRUSH ME HERE, IT'S THE END OF THE WORLD
HM, THIS GUY'S NECK IS PRETTY STIFF

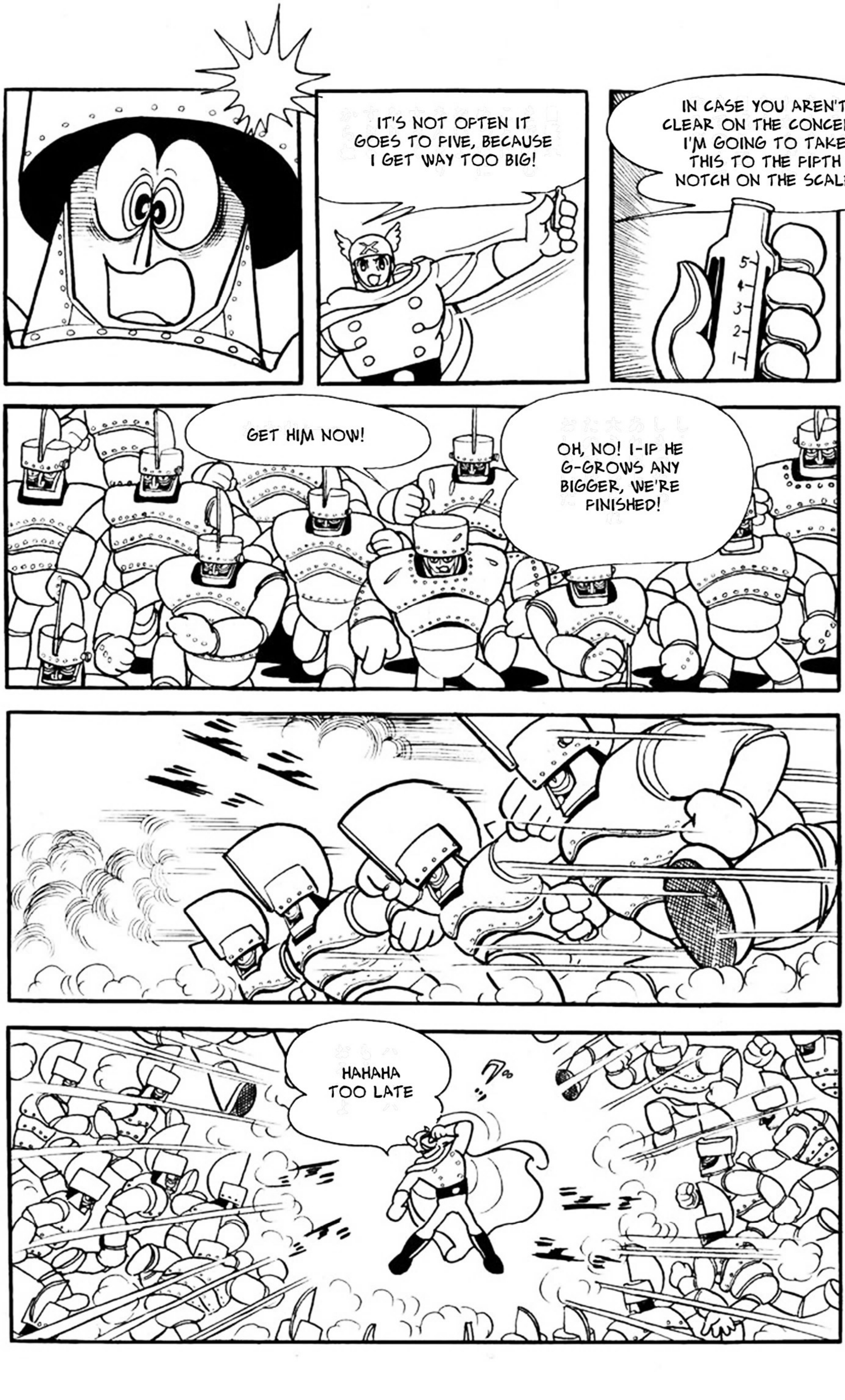

I CAN GET AT ITS WEAK POINT
THEN FROM THE BACK ....
IF THAT'S THE CASE...
PFFT... TOO BAD YOU CAN'T EVEN TURN YOUR HEAD TO LOOK AT ME!


AND YOU CAN'T SHAKE ME OFF
ONE MORE SWING...
YOW!


YOU DON'T THINK YOU CAN BEAT BIG X LIKE THAT DO YOU?
FLAMETHROWERS ARE A NASTY THING TO USE
TAKE THAT!

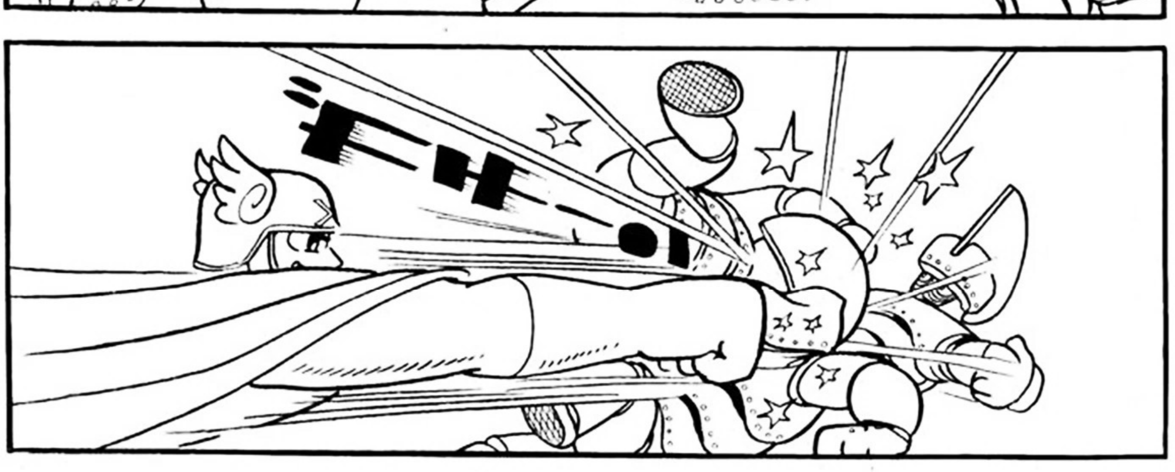


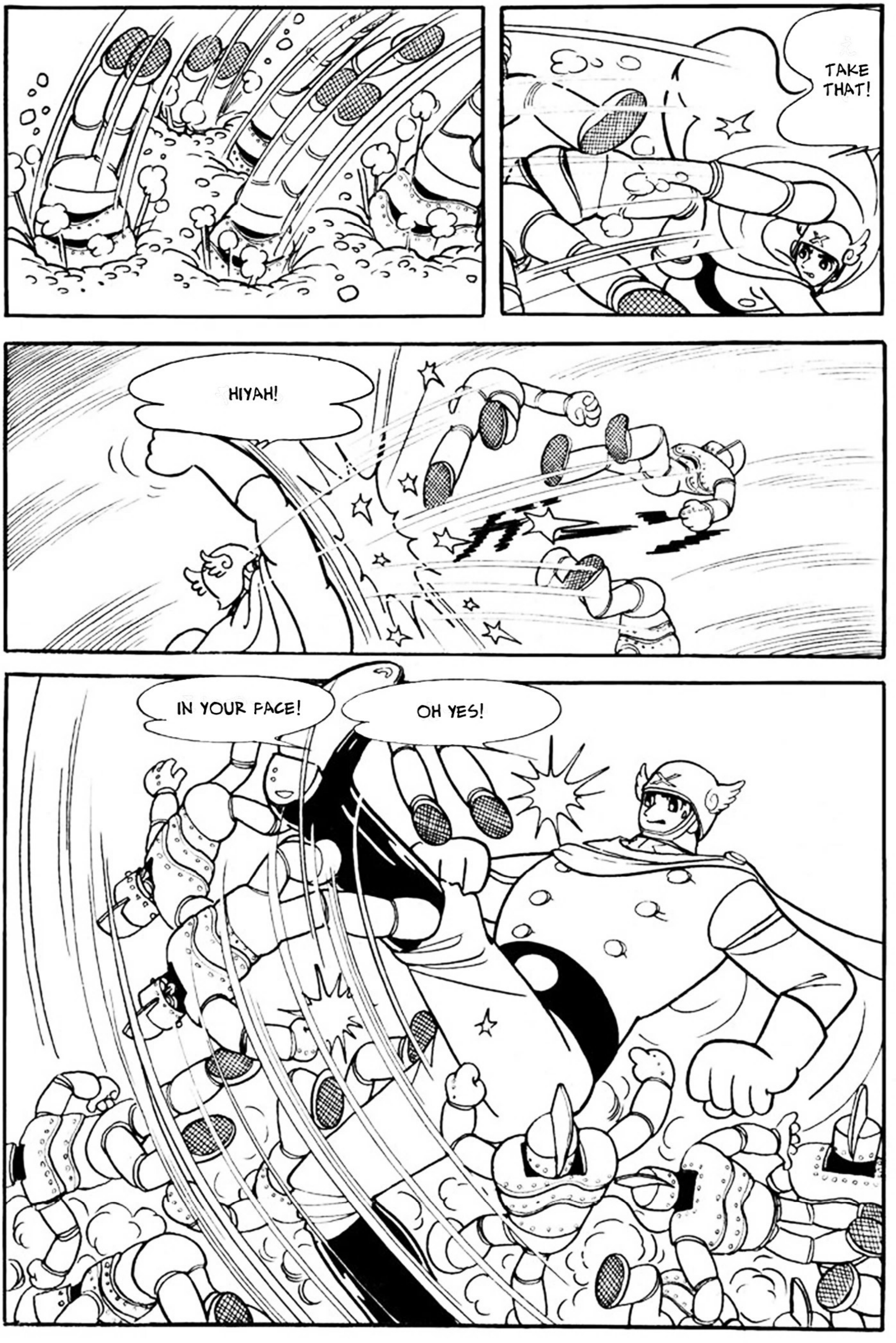
ズボッ
GUAAAHH
DAMN... WHAT A SLOPPY MESS
COME BACK HERE, YOU COWARD!
I'M GOING TO CRUSH YOU WITH 100 V-3 UNITS!
HANS, I'M SURE YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE POWER OF THE BIG X FORMULA

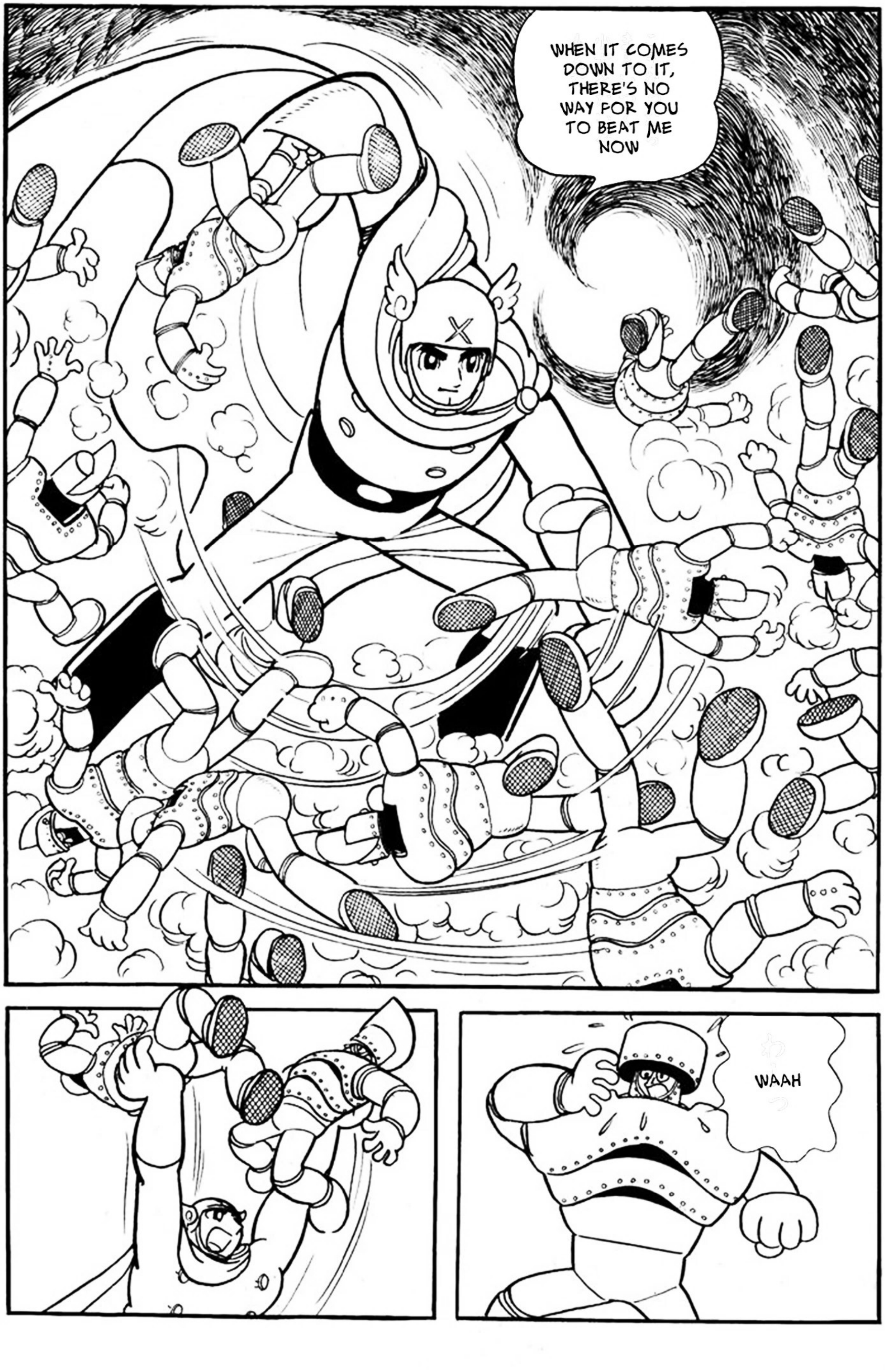


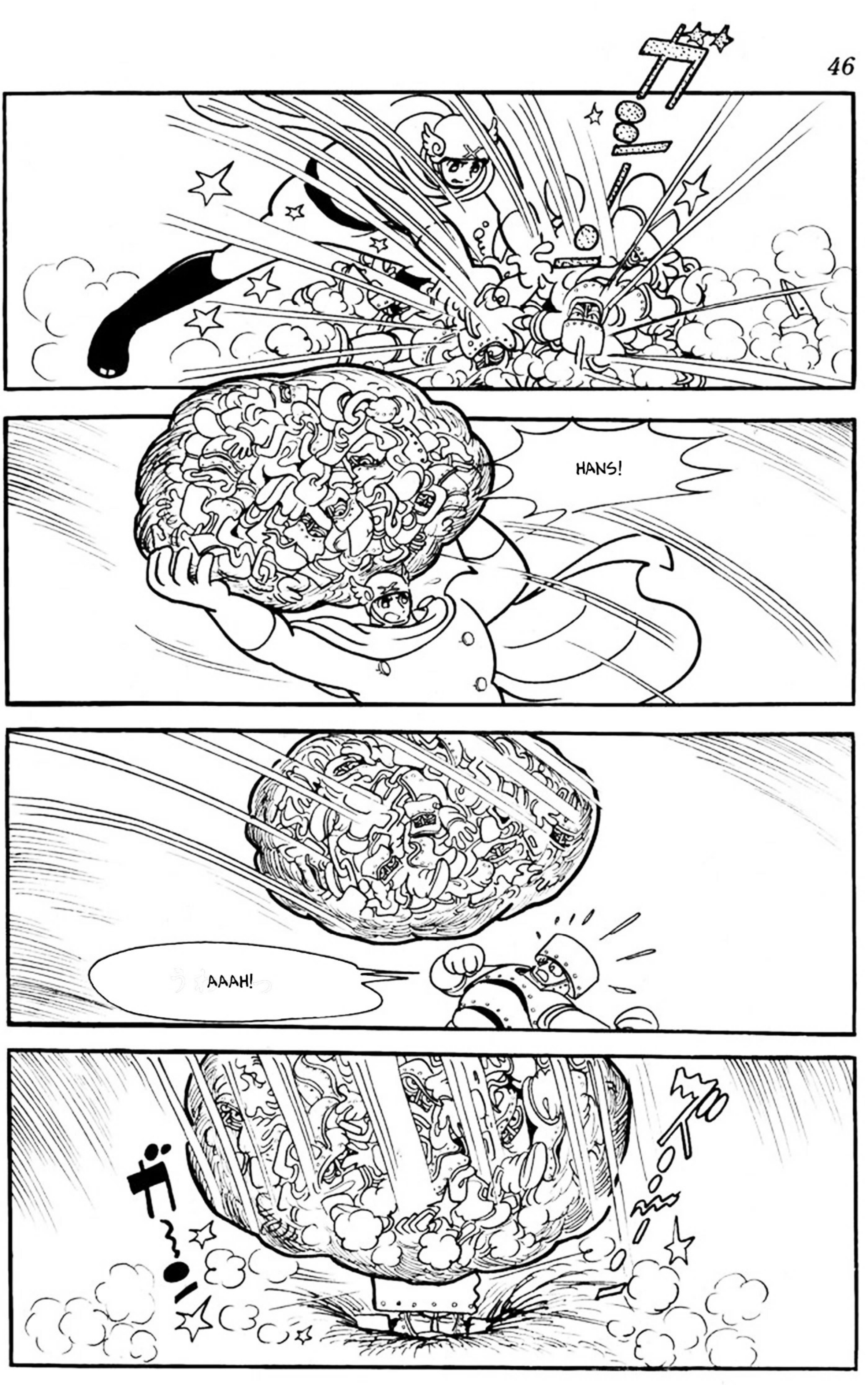
IT'S NOT OFTEN IT GOES TO FIVE, BECAUSE I GET WAY TOO BIG!
IN CASE YOU AREN'T CLEAR ON THE CONCEPT, I'M GOING TO TAKE THIS TO THE FIFTH NOTCH ON THE SCALE
5
4
3
2
1
GET HIM NOW!
OH, NO! I-IF HE G-GROWS ANY BIGGER, WE'RE FINISHED!
HAHAHA TOO LATE

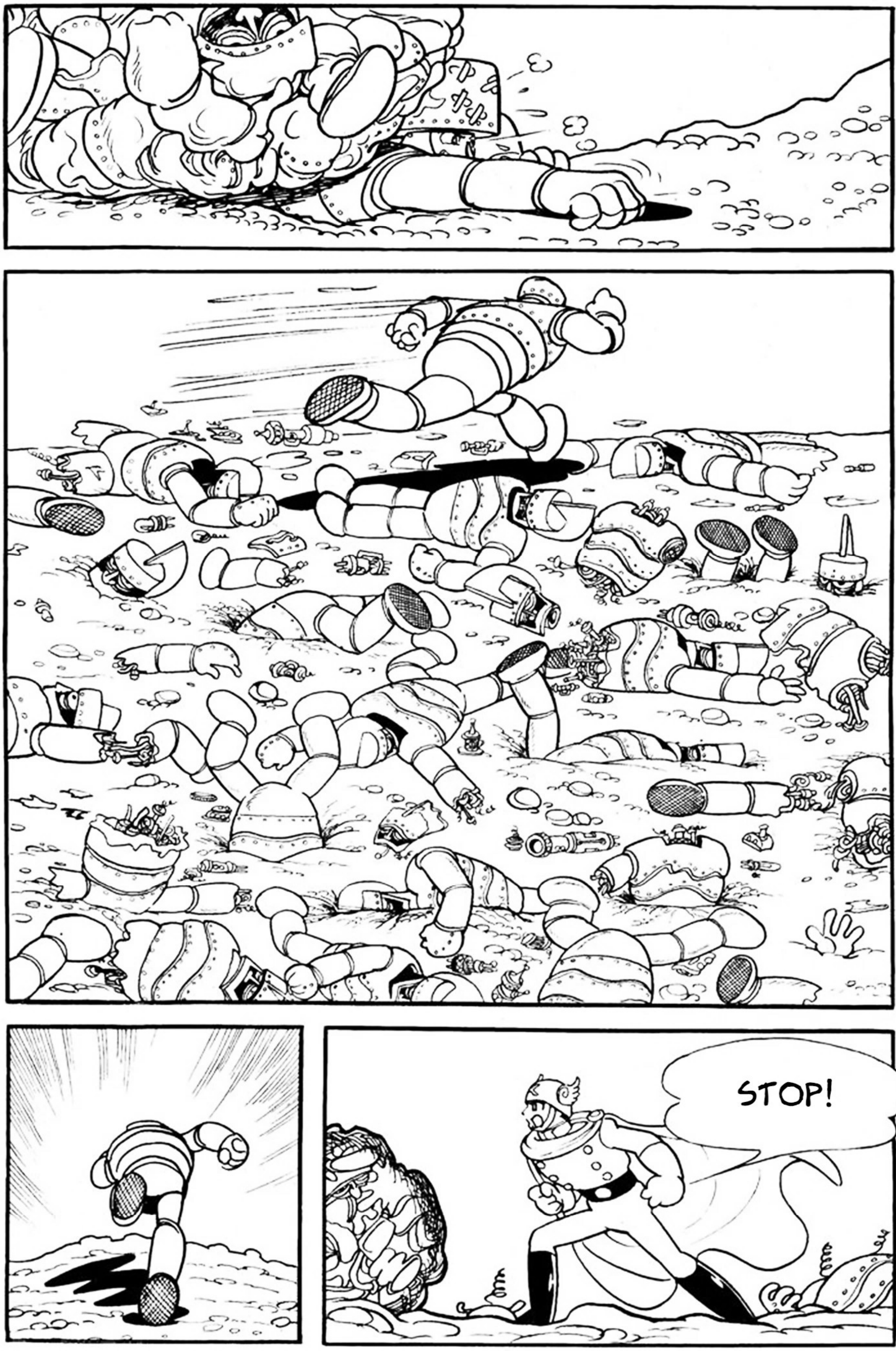

I'M SORRY HANS, BUT I'M GOING TO HAVE TO PUT ALL THESE V-3'S DOWN

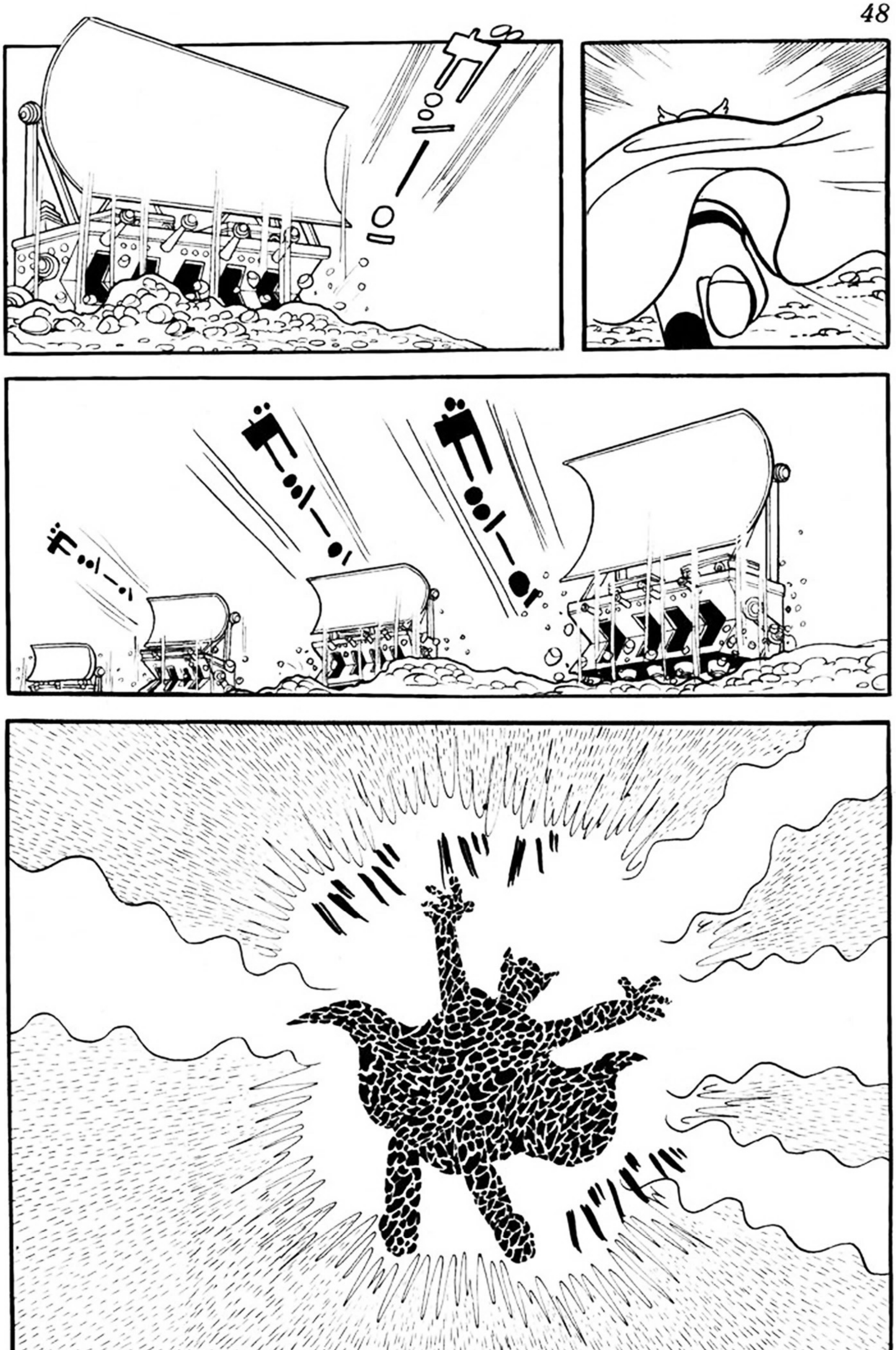


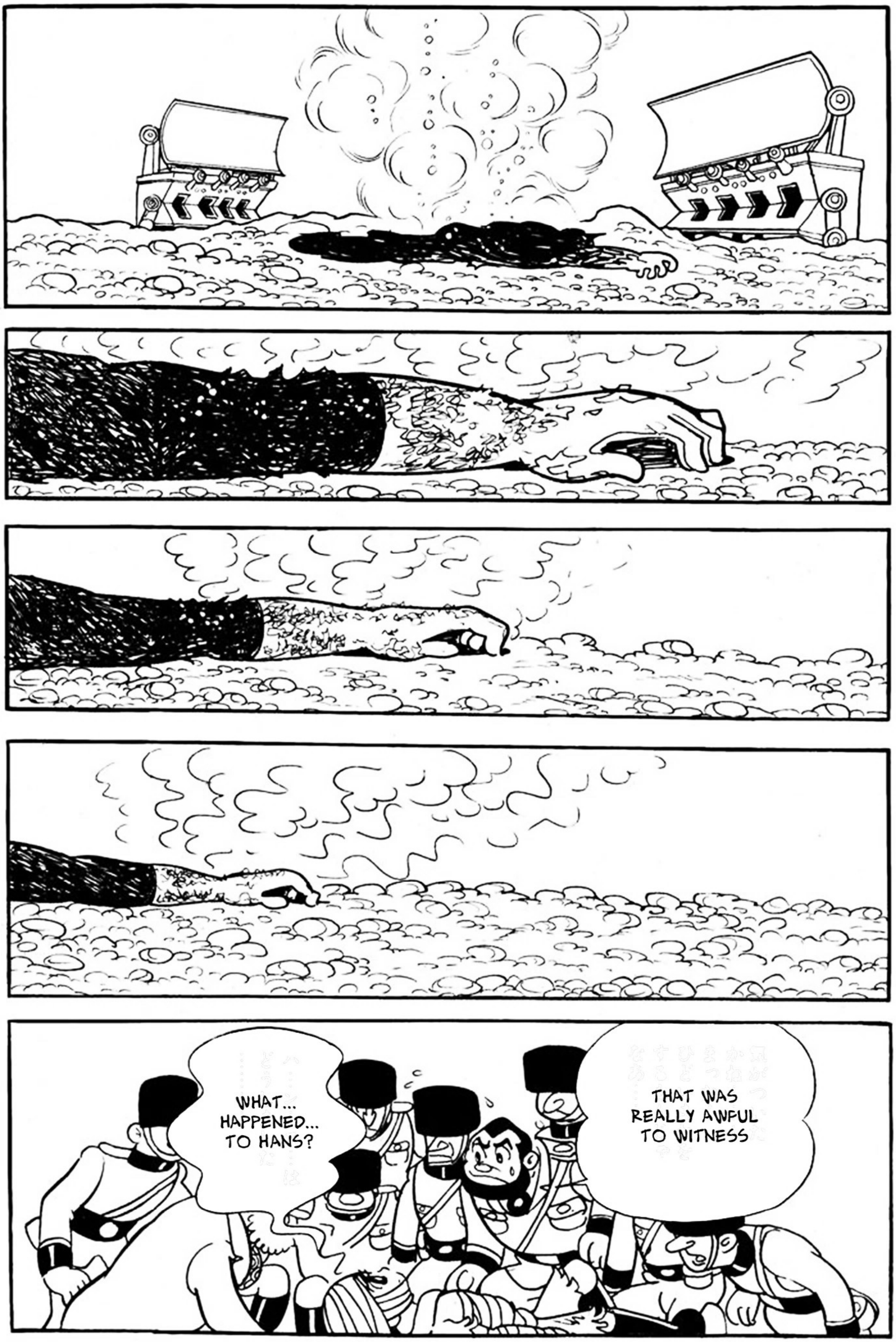

TAKE THAT!
HIYAH!
IN YOUR FACE!
OH YES!


WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO IT, THERE'S NO WAY FOR YOU TO BEAT ME NOW
WAAH

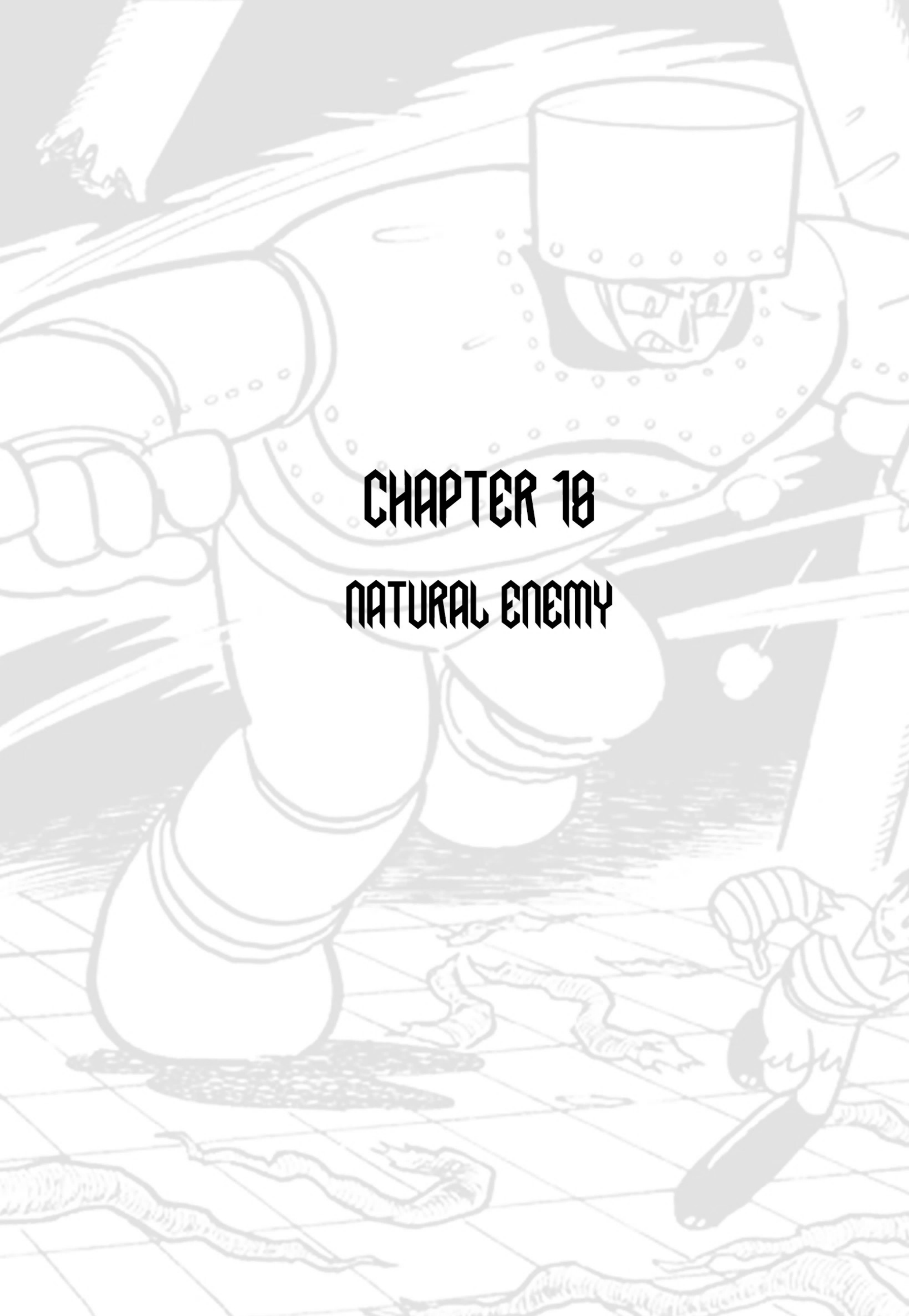

HANS!
AAAH!


STOP!


ババババ
バババ

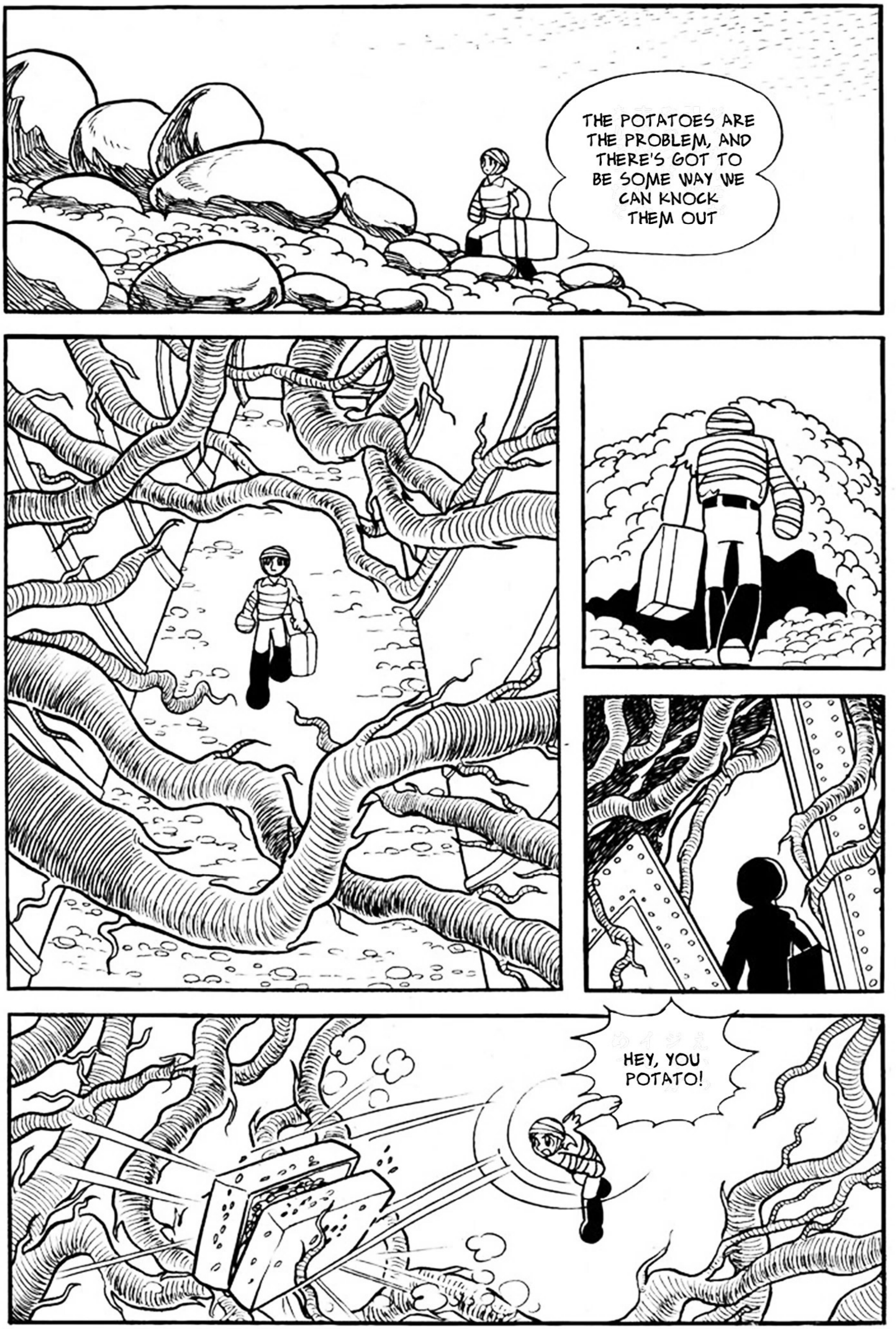

THAT WAS REALLY AWFUL TO WITNESS
WHAT... HAPPENED... TO HANS?

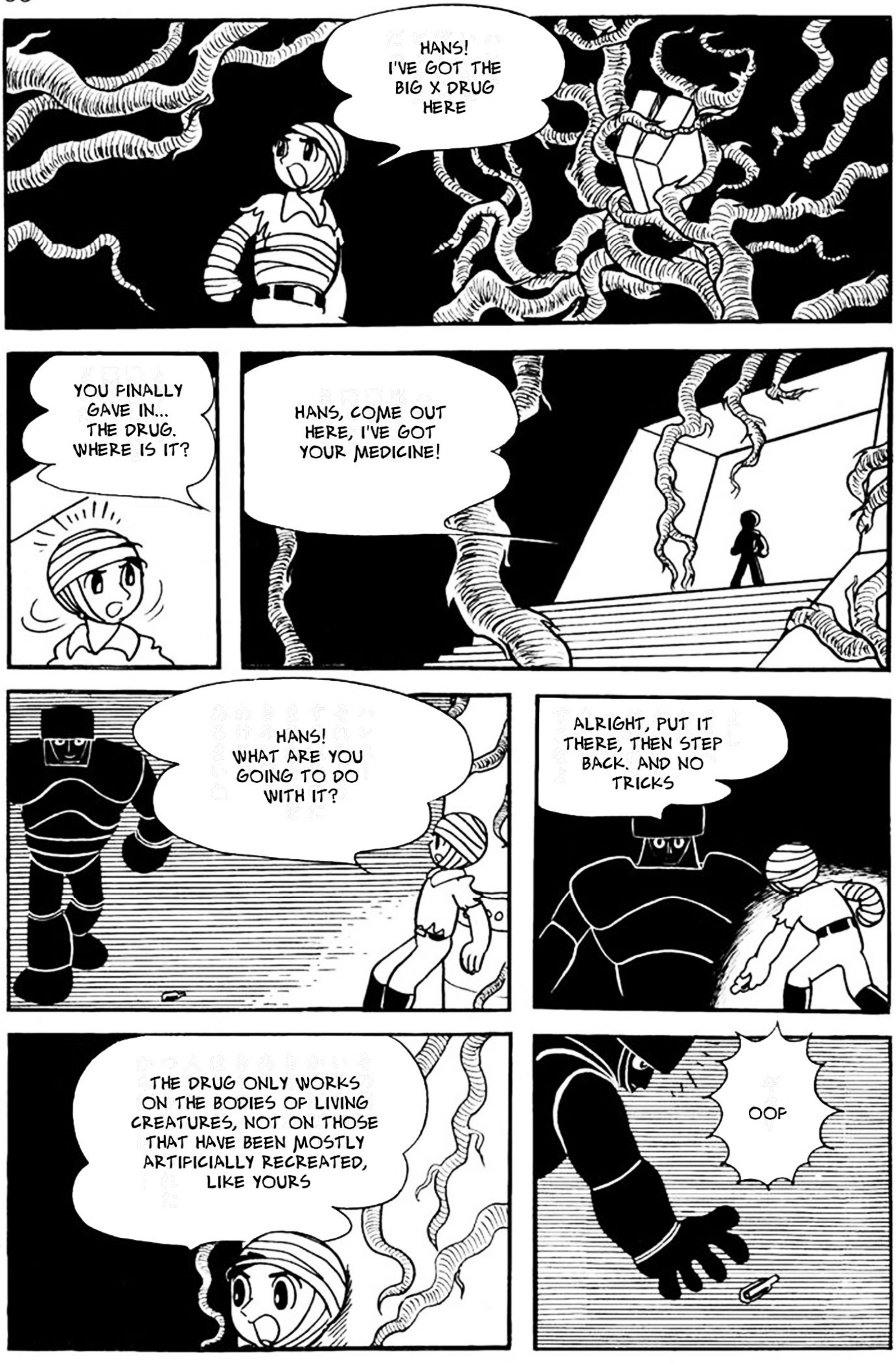

WHAT?!?
HANS SAID IF WE DON'T PULL BACK, HE WILL LAUNCH A HUNDRED H-BOMB MISSILES IN ALL DIRECTIONS
HE'S CRAZY... A HUNDRED H-BOMBS.
I'M SURE THE POTATO MONSTER IS CONTROLLING HANS, AND HE MUST BE MISERABLE
HE ALSO WANTS YOU TO GIVE HIM ALL THE BIG X DRUG!
HANS IS REALLY A NICE GUY, BUT HE'LL DO ANYTHING FOR HIS OWN ALLIES
ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO HAND OVER THE DRUG?
I HAVE A PLAN
OKAY, LET'S GO... WITH THE BIG X DRUG

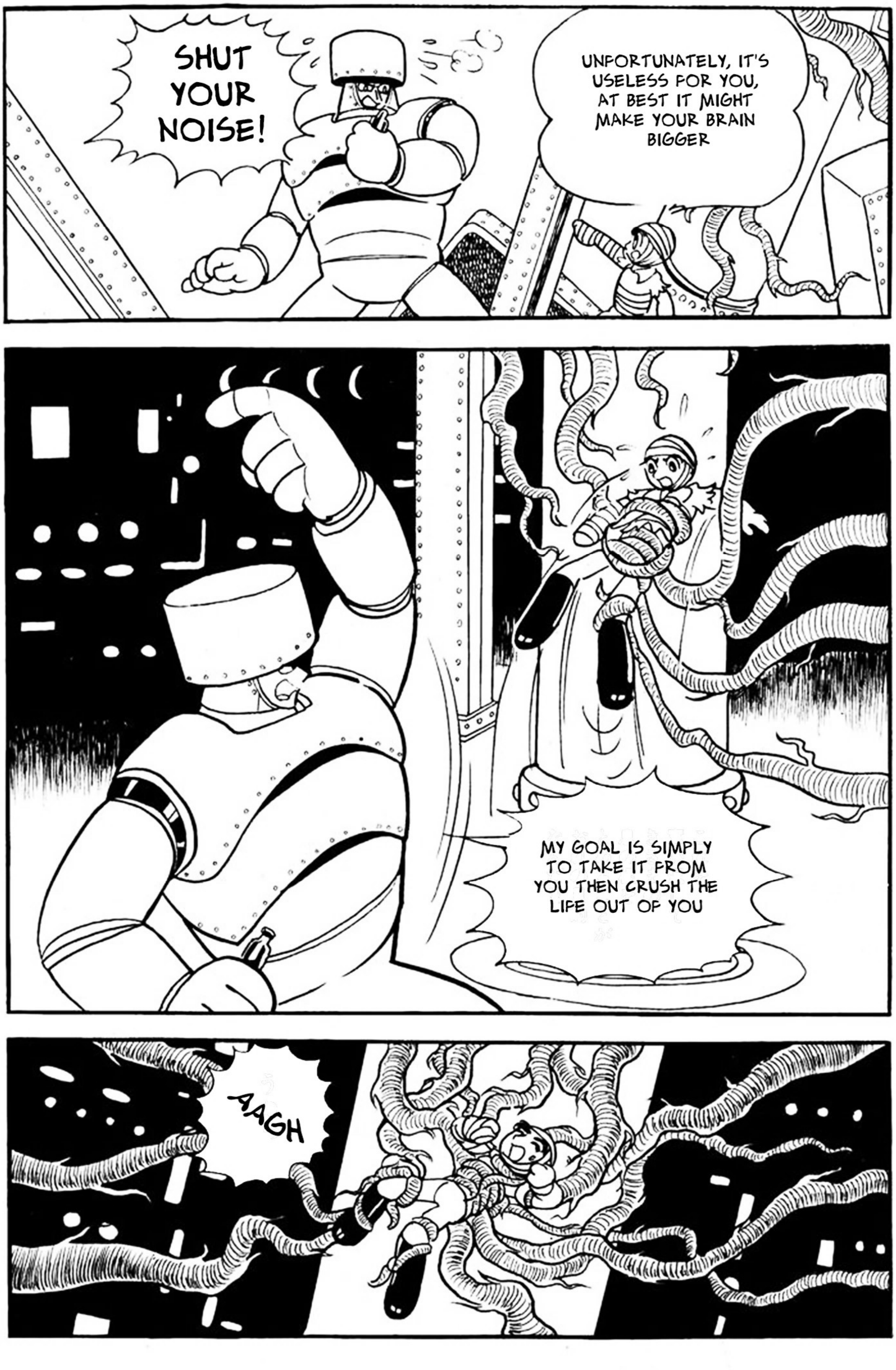


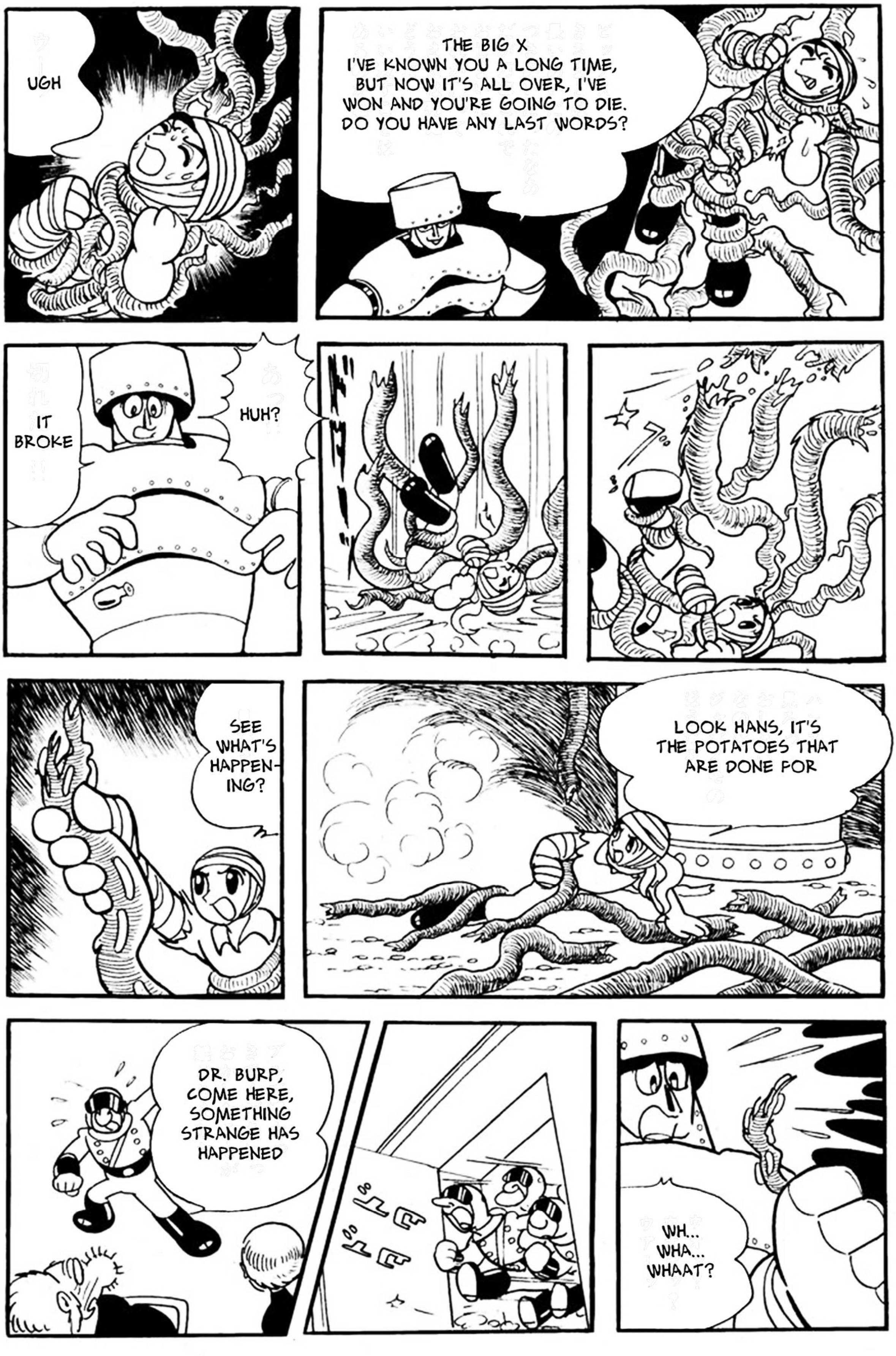
CHAPTER 18

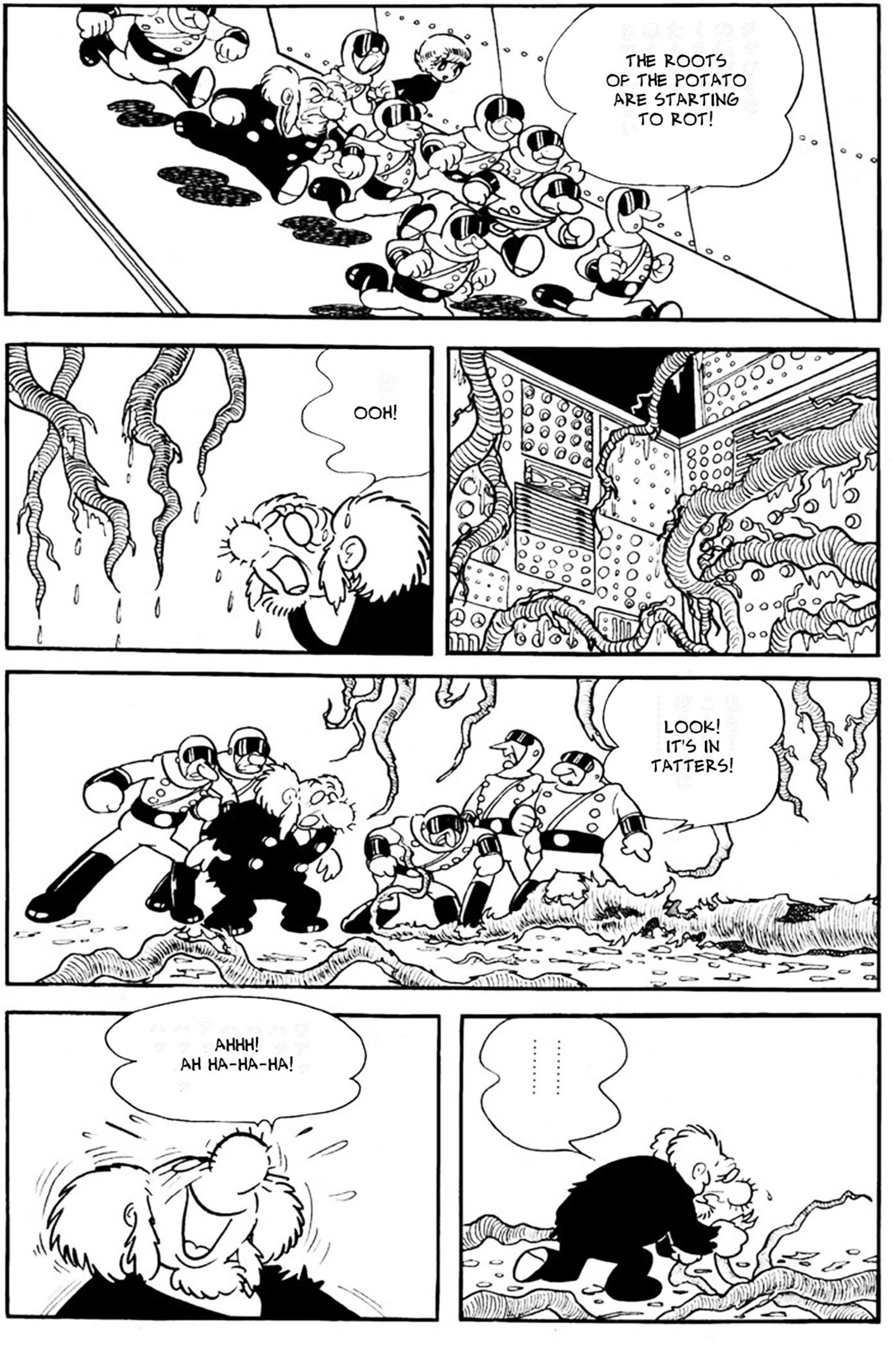
NATURAL ENEMY


THE POTATOES ARE THE PROBLEM, AND THERE'S GOT TO BE SOME WAY WE CAN KNOCK THEM OUT
HEY, YOU POTATO!

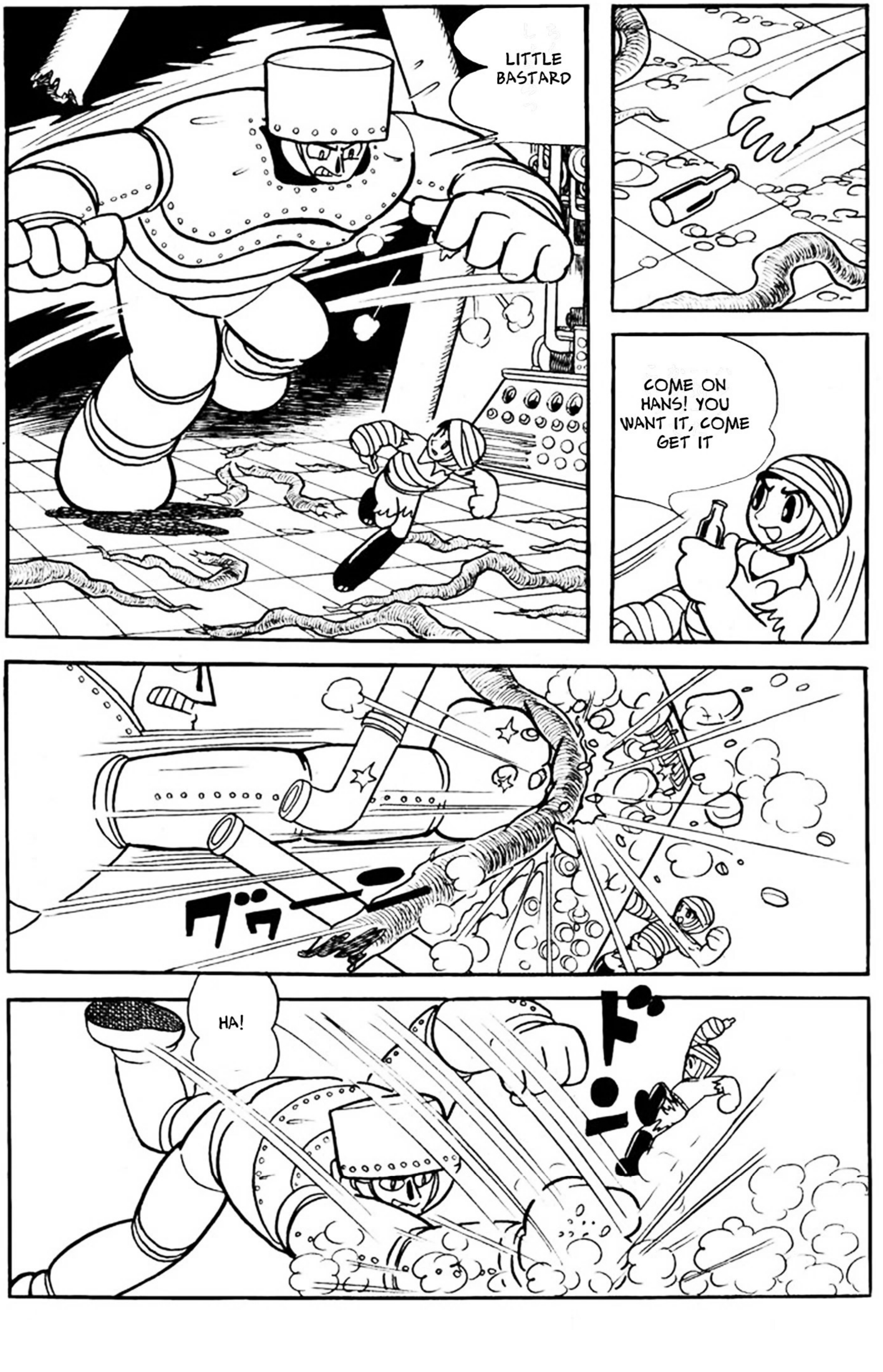

HANS! I'VE GOT THE BIG X DRUG HERE
YOU FINALLY GAVE IN... THE DRUG. WHERE IS IT?
HANS, COME OUT HERE, I'VE GOT YOUR MEDICINE!
HANS! WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO WITH IT?
ALRIGHT, PUT IT THERE, THEN STEP BACK. AND NO TRICKS
THE DRUG ONLY WORKS ON THE BODIES OF LIVING CREATURES, NOT ON THOSE THAT HAVE BEEN MOSTLY ARTIFICIALLY RECREATED, LIKE YOURS
OOF

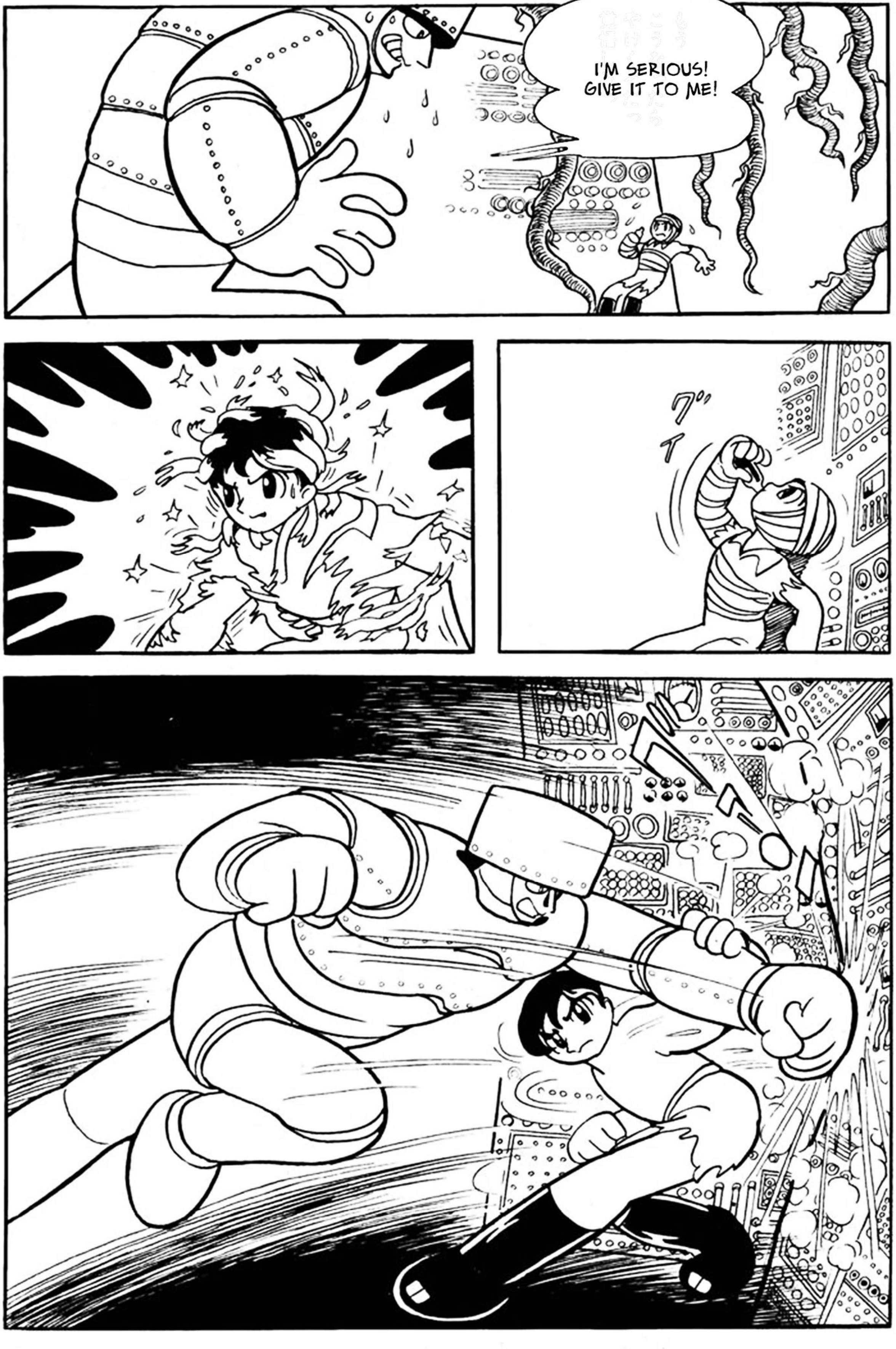

SHUT YOUR NOISE!
UNFORTUNATELY, IT'S USELESS FOR YOU, AT BEST IT MIGHT MAKE YOUR BRAIN BIGGER
MY GOAL IS SIMPLY TO TAKE IT FROM YOU THEN CRUSH THE LIFE OUT OF YOU
AAGH

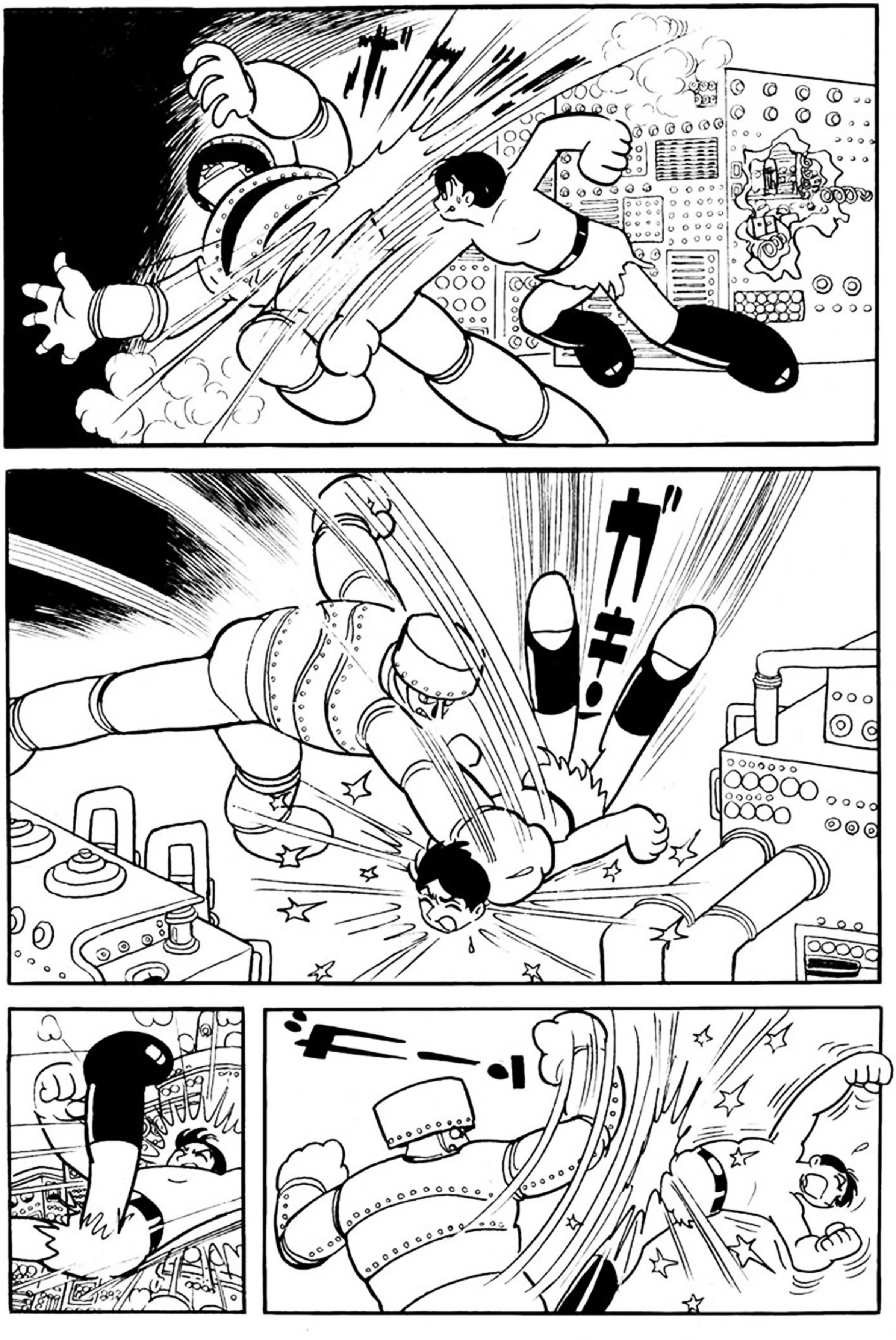

UGH
THE BIG X
I'VE KNOWN YOU A LONG TIME, BUT NOW IT'S ALL OVER, I'VE WON AND YOU'RE GOING TO DIE. DO YOU HAVE ANY LAST WORDS?
IT BROKE
HUH?
SEE WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING?
LOOK HANS, IT'S THE POTATOES THAT ARE DONE FOR
DR. BURP, COME HERE, SOMETHING STRANGE HAS HAPPENED
WH... WHA... WHAAT?

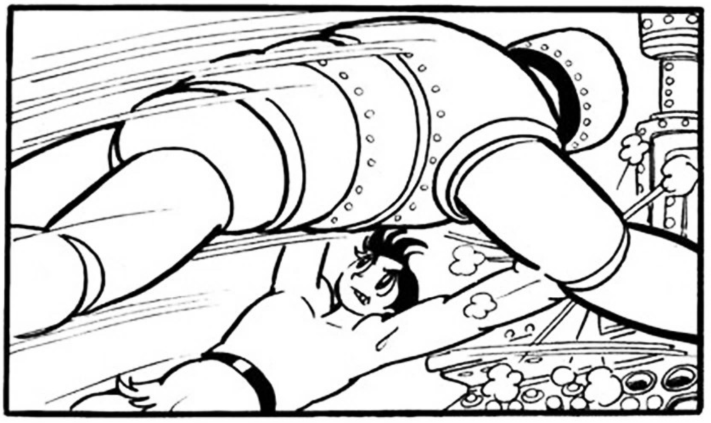

THE ROOTS OF THE POTATO ARE STARTING TO ROT!
OOH!
LOOK! IT'S IN TATTERS!
AHHH! AH HA-HA-HA!
......

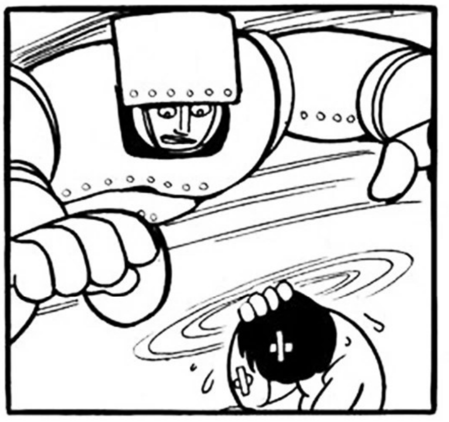

WHAT KIND OF CATERPILLAR DO YOU THINK IT IS? IT'S THE LARVA OF A MOTH CALLED THE "LEAFHOPPER"
THEY ARE PESTS THAT SPECIALIZE IN DEVOURING POTATOES!
IN OTHER WORDS: THIS CATERPILLAR IS THE GREAT NATURAL ENEMY OF THE POTATO!
LOOK AT ALL OF THEM! THEY'RE EATING AWAY AT THE POTATO'S ROOTS
NINA! WE'VE WON!
WOW! WE'VE WON!
SUCK ON THAT, POTATO!
I'M SO HAPPY!

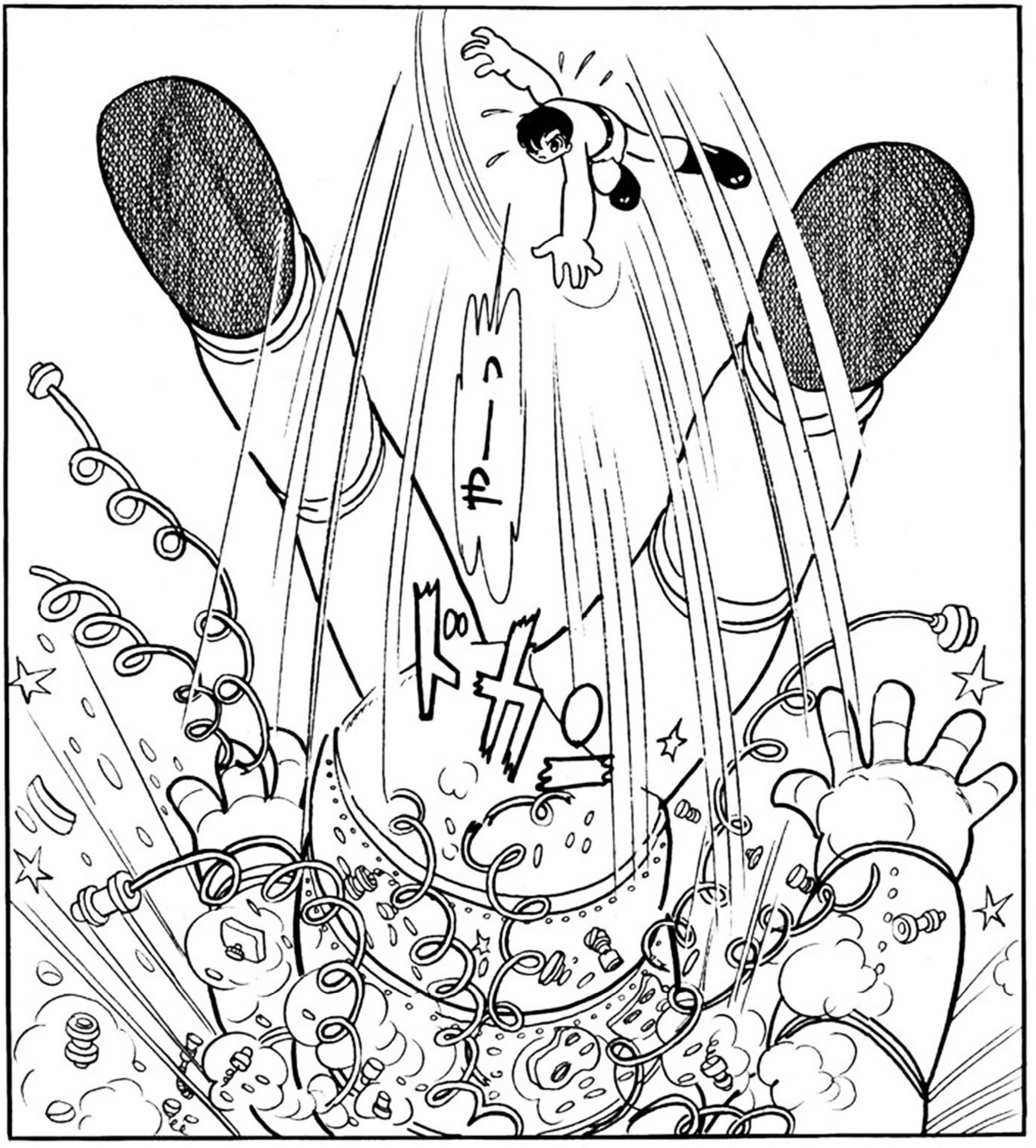

COME ON HANS! YOU WANT IT, COME GET IT
LITTLE BASTARD
ヴゥーーン
HA!
ドーン

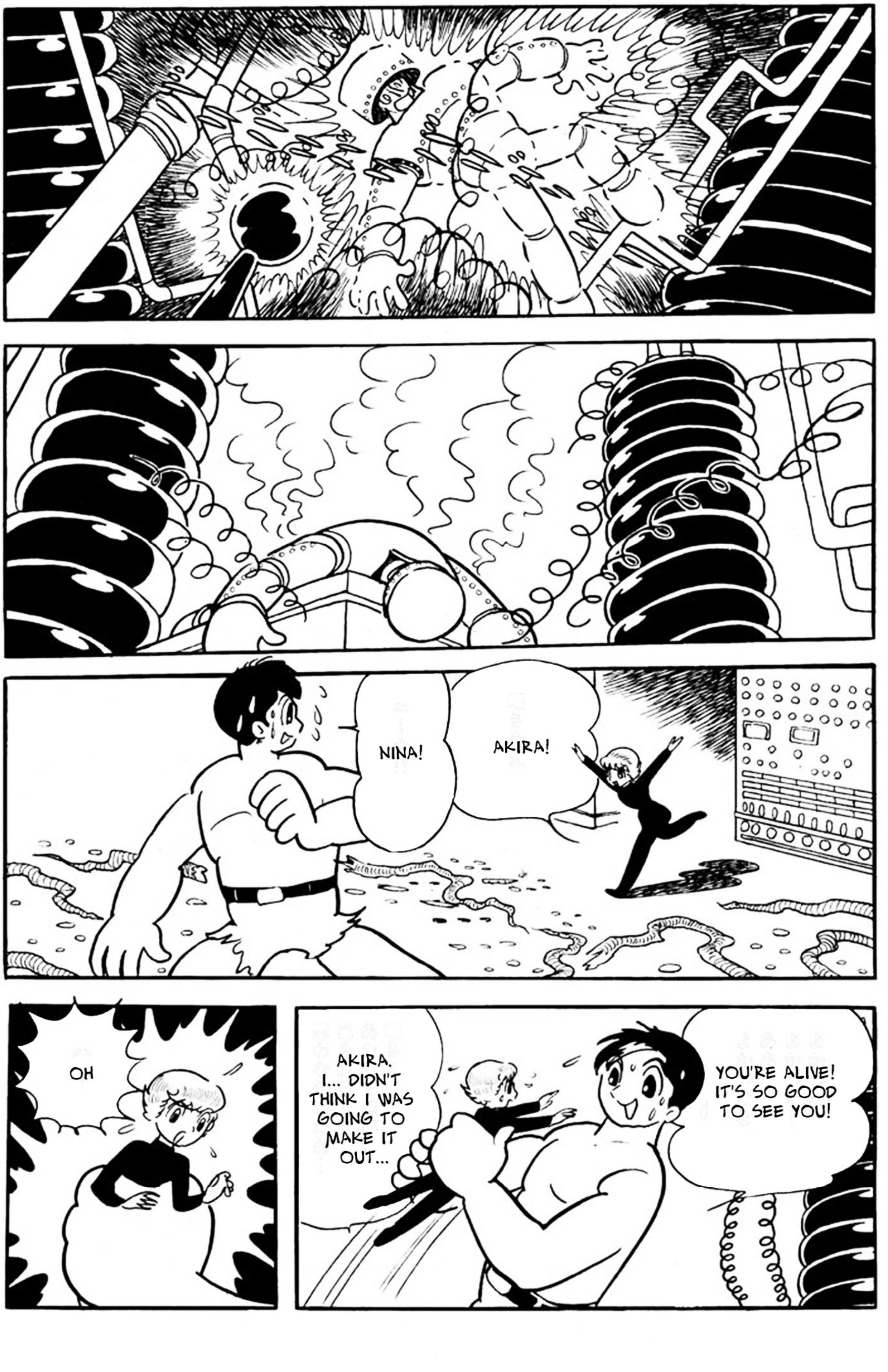

I'M SERIOUS! GIVE IT TO ME!
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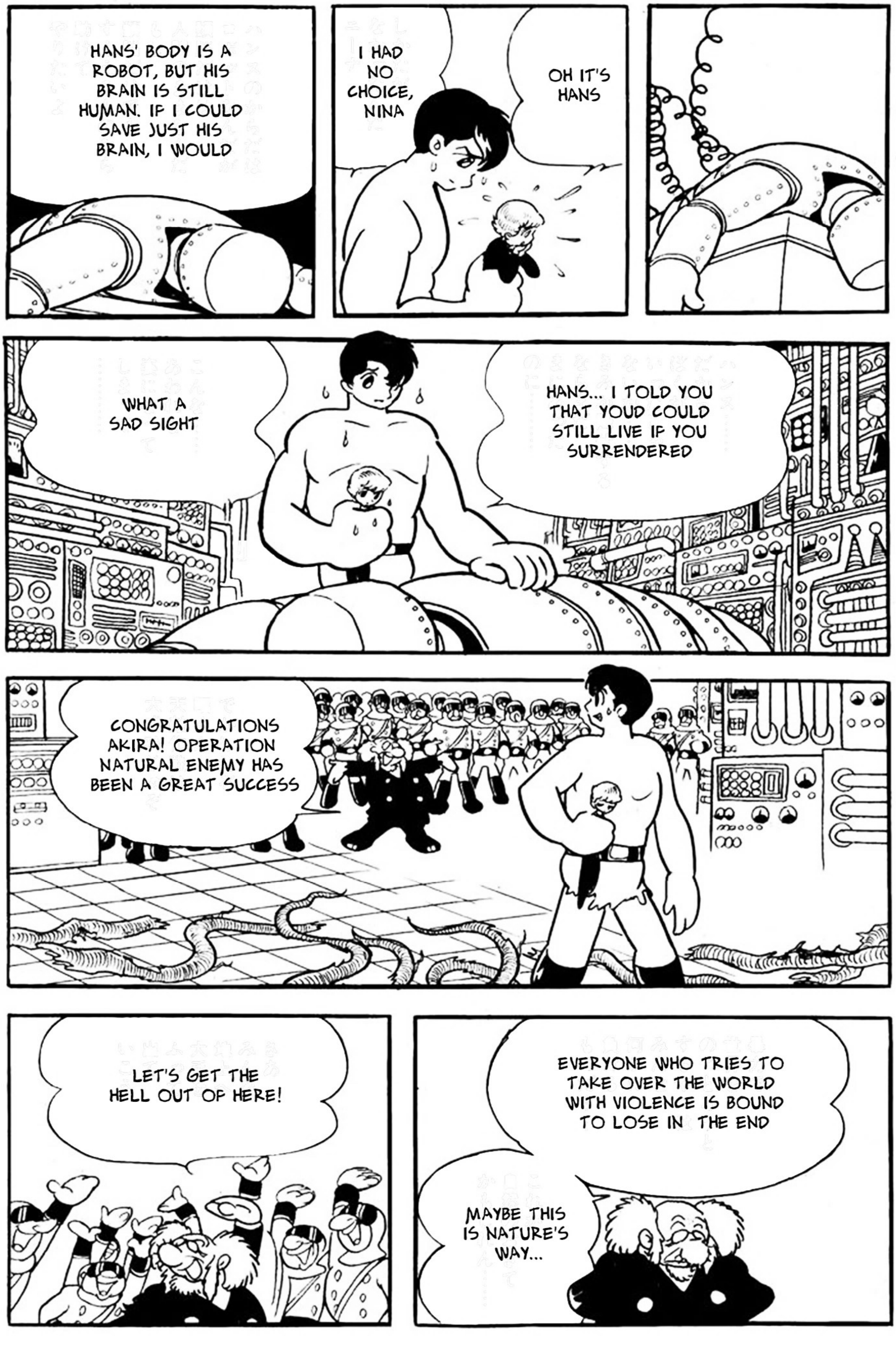

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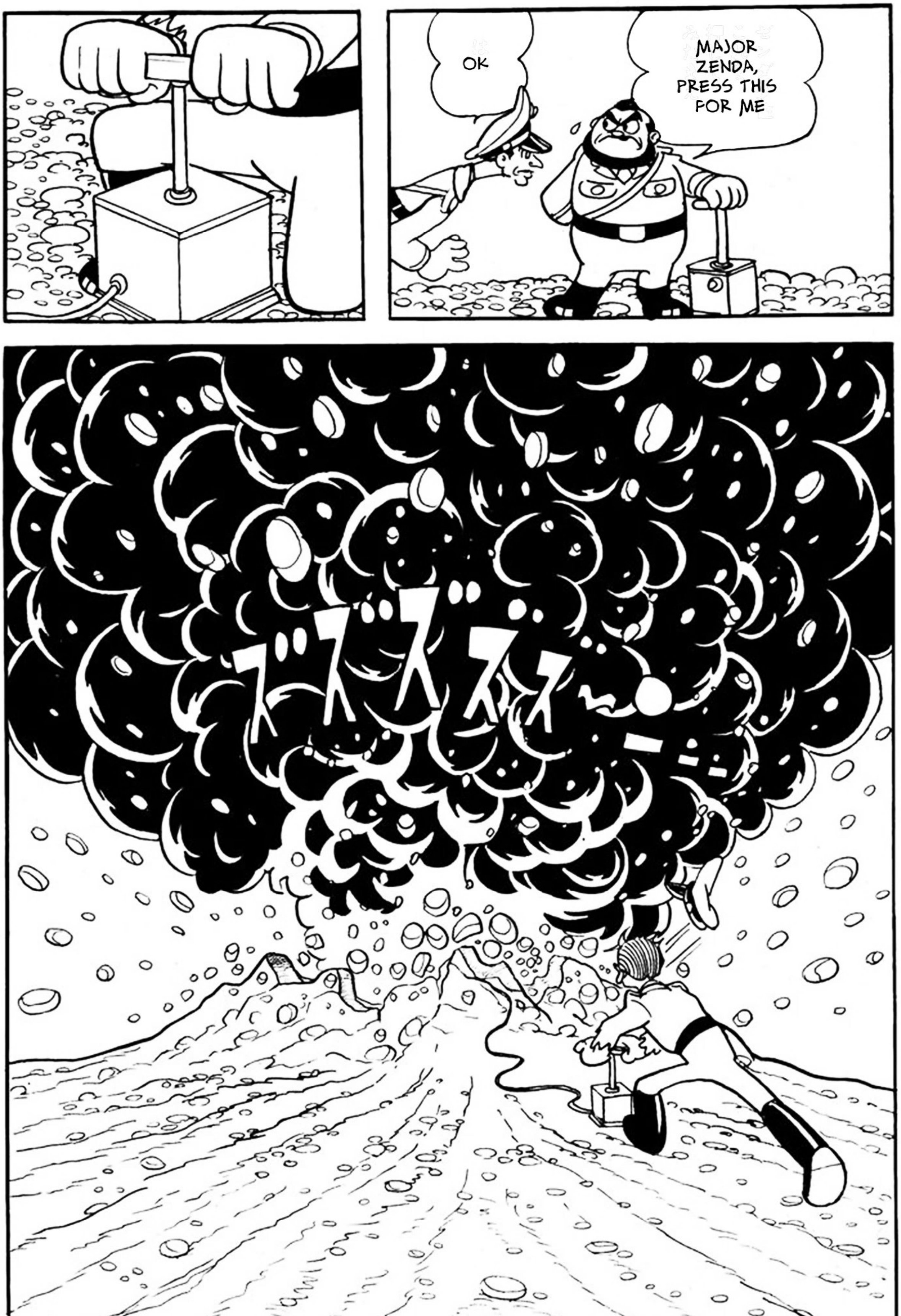


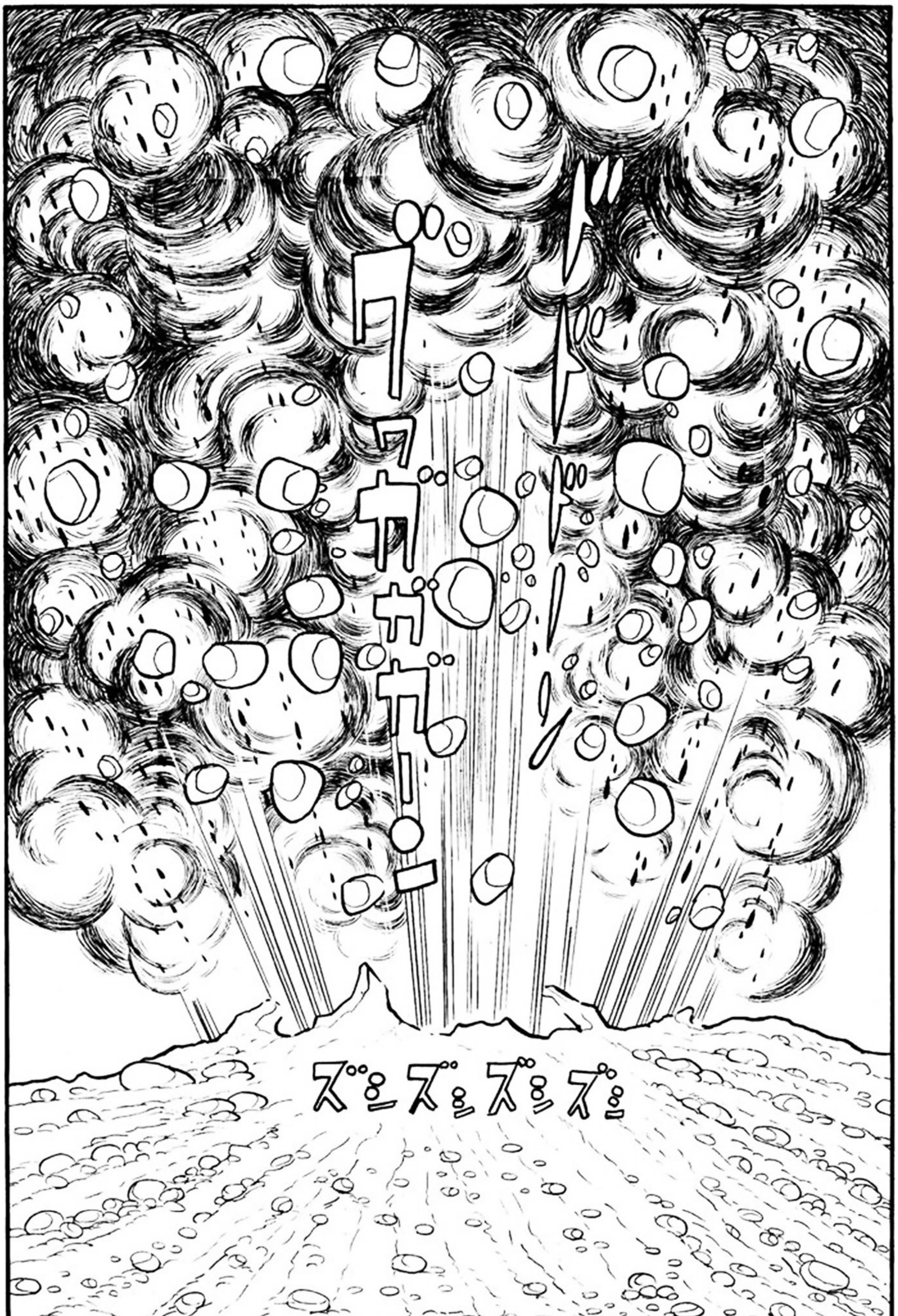

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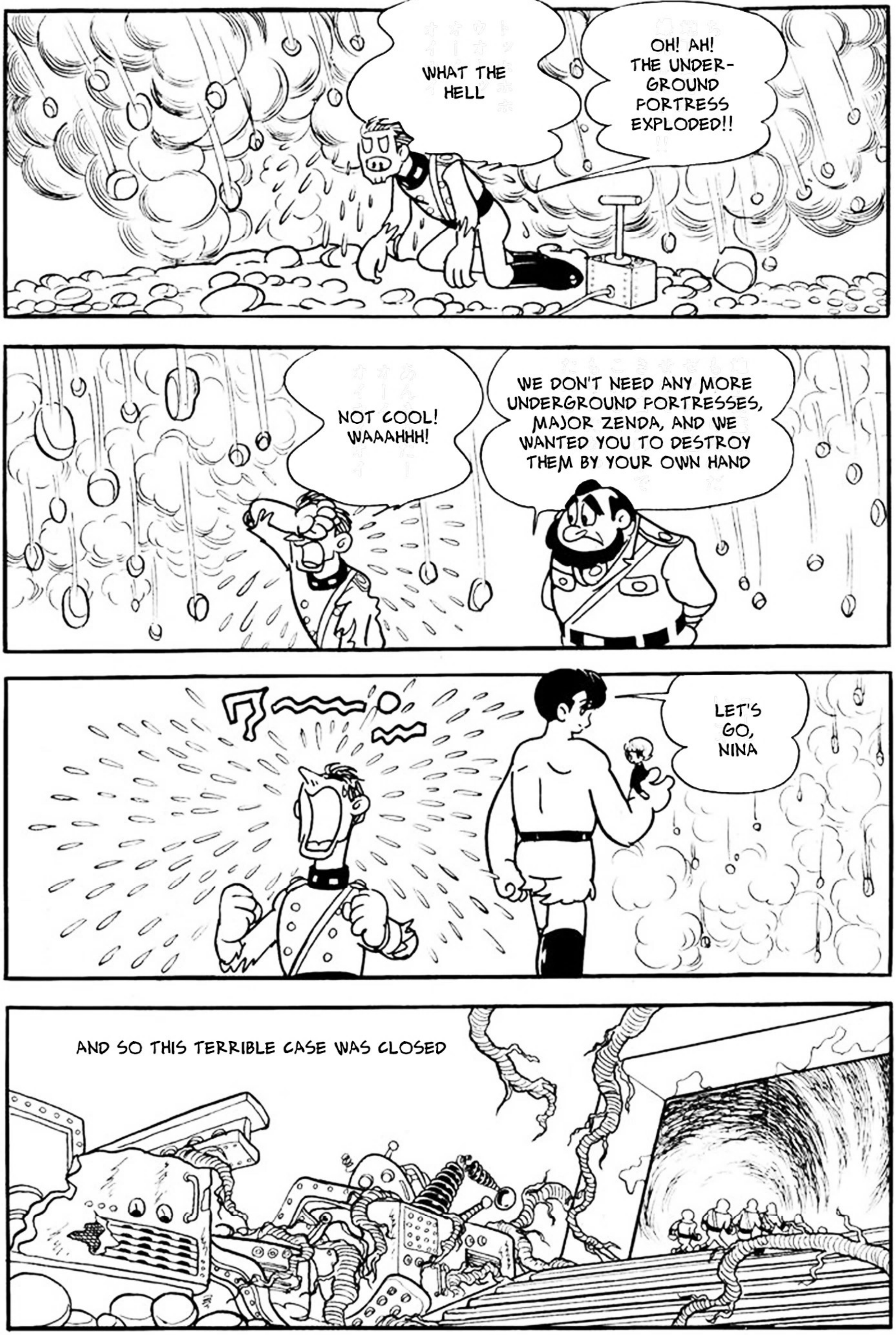

NINA!
AKIRA!
OH
AKIRA. I... DIDN'T THINK I WAS GOING TO MAKE IT OUT...
YOU'RE ALIVE! IT'S SO GOOD TO SEE YOU!


OH IT'S HANS
I HAD NO CHOICE, NINA
HANS' BODY IS A ROBOT, BUT HIS BRAIN IS STILL HUMAN. IF I COULD SAVE JUST HIS BRAIN, I WOULD
HANS... I TOLD YOU THAT YOUD COULD STILL LIVE IF YOU SURRENDERED
WHAT A SAD SIGHT
CONGRATULATIONS AKIRA! OPERATION NATURAL ENEMY HAS BEEN A GREAT SUCCESS
EVERYONE WHO TRIES TO TAKE OVER THE WORLD WITH VIOLENCE IS BOUND TO LOSE IN THE END
MAYBE THIS IS NATURE'S WAY...
LET'S GET THE HELL OUT OF HERE!


THEN THIS FORTRESS, AS IT WAS, WILL BE MINE AGAIN. I WAS THE COMMANDER
THE REPUBLIC OF GALEA WILL NOT BE TAKEN OVER BY THE POTATOES ANYMORE!
HEY, GUYS. WHAT ARE YOU DOING WANDERING OFF? GET BACK TO THE FORTRESS! THE COMMANDER'S ORDERS!
MINISTER! I, MAJOR ZENDA, WILL DEPEND TO THE DEATH THIS UNDERGROUND FORTRESS FOR THE SAKE OF OUR NEW HOMELAND. PLEASE GIVE ME AN ORDER!


MAJOR ZENDA, PRESS THIS FOR ME
OK


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OH! AH! THE UNDER-GROUND FORTRESS EXPLODED!!
WHAT THE HELL
WE DON'T NEED ANY MORE UNDERGROUND FORTRESSES, MAJOR ZENDA, AND WE WANTED YOU TO DESTROY THEM BY YOUR OWN HAND
NOT COOL! WAAAHHH!
LET'S GO, NINA
AND SO THIS TERRIBLE CASE WAS CLOSED


THE RUINS OF THE UNDERGROUND FORTRESS WILL BE BURIED THERE FOREVER, ALONG WITH THE SCRAPS OF DRIED POTATO ROOTS